

# Fantasy Football, Your Either In or Out - It Ain't All Fun Baby!



"Thinking of Sticking Your Hand In and Giving It A Go? Don't!! Not Before You Get the Low-Down First" ...

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## Table of Content

1. A Simple Explanation of the Game
2. Become a Fantasy Football Owner Today
3. Become Familiar with a League's Point System and Rules before Signing Up
4. Don't Select Your Tight End too Early
5. Draft Tips
6. Fantasy Football Draft Rules
7. Fantasy Football is Preferable to the Live Sport
8. Fantasy Football is a Game for Everybody
9. Fantasy Football Survivor Pools
10. Get Ready for Fantasy Football Season
11. How Much is that Player really Worth?

12. How to Approach Auctions
13. How to Attain Successful Draft Day Results
14. How to Create your Own Ranking Sheets
15. How to Draft a Defense
16. How to Draft a Kicker
17. How to Implement Running Back by Committee
18. How to Manage Bye Weeks
19. How to Pick from the Waiver Wire
20. How to Play the Game within Special Leagues
21. How to Select a Fantasy Football Team
22. How to Set Up Your Own Fantasy Football League
23. How to Win when Picking Last in the Draft
24. Increase Your Confidence with a Confidence Pool
25. Is an Auction Better than a Draft?
26. Keeping Score
27. League Rules and Point Systems
28. Many Options Exist for Fantasy Football
29. Pick'em Pools
30. Planning Strategy for the 2010 Season
31. Possible Draft Day Mistakes
32. Practice Makes Perfect
33. Preparing for the Draft
34. Primary Ingredients of a Successful Draft

35. Public Leagues Make Fantasy Football Accessible
36. Select your Players Wisely
37. Should You Worry about Collusion?
38. The Beginnings Of Fantasy Football
39. The Key to Winning is Understanding
40. Two Components of the Team
41. Various Types of Leagues
42. What if You Make Mistakes?
43. What is a Cheat Sheet?
44. When to Select your Running Backs and Wide Receivers
45. Why Advice can be Helpful

Resources: (fantasy football edge recommendation)

### #1. A Simple Explanation of the Game

As popular as Fantasy Football has become there are still many who are unaware of its existence. However, the name Fantasy Football piques many individuals' curiosity and the question is asked: What is it? There are so many facets of the game however this article is designed to provide you with the basics of Fantasy Football. First off, Fantasy

Football is played over the Internet. Most of the game's participants have a great appreciation of the NFL. The majority who play Fantasy Football also root for their favorite NFL teams as one of their recreational activities.

In brief, you register as part of a league wherein you become the owner of your own Fantasy Football NFL team. There are various leagues and each have their own set of rules. Also you may acquire the players on your team by way of draft or auction bidding; this aspect is entirely dependent on the league which you join. The players you select to become team members are all NFL players originating from various NFL franchises.

In this article, it is presumed your league engages in drafting players. Your roster, dependent on league, may be comprised of eight, ten, twelve, fourteen or sixteen players. All the members on your team are drafted to be part of your lineup. The owners of the teams are expected by the league to acquire the players within a predefined schedule of time. The attainment of players must be effected within the current season. When selecting players you are going to need to strategize with regard to any of your players becoming injured during the season. When developing the roster it is also important as a team owner that you consider the free agent status of particular players who can be subsequently added onto your team when the timing is appropriate.

The best aspect of the Fantasy Football team is that it is structured similarly to the teams in the NFL. Generally a Fantasy Football team may consist of a) two defenses; b)

two quarterbacks, c) three running backs, d) two tight ends, and e) one kicker. That said, this roster format is apt to change from one league to the next; nevertheless, it provides you with some idea how the team player listing is set up.

During Fantasy Football, a touchdown is generally scored as six points. The points reward may be awarded to the player who was able to make the touchdown and also to the quarterback if he assisted in increasing the score. A field goal can add three points. Lastly, other points are attained or subtracted by means of offensive and defensive plays made by your team's Fantasy Football players.

## #2. Become a Fantasy Football Owner Today

Many people have been NFL fans for years. They've observed many of the plays as well as the players and thought: If only I owned a franchise—I'd surely do such and such. Well, now you can and you needn't possess a hefty bank roll in order to achieve it. You can sign up online and easily own your own Fantasy Football team. Further, play is free. In the true NFL sport structurally there is a very prosperous owner who chooses the general manager for the football team as well as the main coach. The owner selects the other members of the staff - and drafts certain prized athletes.

Naturally, with any team the head coach has a great deal of responsibility on his or her shoulders to win games on

a weekly basis. There is an upside, however, to all the stress placed on the main coach, and that is if the team performs well they are headed for the playoffs at the end of the football season. This translates to a generous cash reward. It is little wonder many persons have fantasized about being owner of their own NFL team.

The good news is Fantasy Football from an operational standpoint is nearly the same format, except you take on the positions of owner, and staff management. Also there is a Fantasy Football auction or draft. When you participate in the Fantasy Football Draft, it is up to you to select players for your team from all the teams' players within the NFL. You are to establish a starting lineup weekly, and make use of trades when necessary. You do this in order to attain points for your team, making it your ultimate goal to reach the (final) playoffs. Within some leagues, if you win, there is a nice cash reward offered as an incentive.

People who have a good grasp of how a game is played within the NFL are in a good position to do well participating in Fantasy Football. The next question you may be thinking is: How do I become involved in Fantasy Football? That part is easy: All you need to do is get online and type the keywords (Fantasy Football) into one of the search engine browsers. Also you might specify free since it's advisable at first you get accustomed to how the game is played before parting with any money.

You may consider purchasing a Fantasy Football franchise in the future. These setups provide you with plenty of

opportunity to earn cash particularly at the end of season. In other words, as is the case with most business propositions: it takes money to make money. However you will have a great deal of fun spending it as well as making it.

Regardless of which route you take, make certain you understand the league's points system with whom you sign up. It is best to select a league that has a simple standard scoring system. This will be important if you wish to strategize effectively.

### #3. Become Familiar with a League's Point System and Rules before Signing Up

If you are new to the game of Fantasy Football this is probably not going to be the first time you hear this advice: It is vitally important you become acquainted with a league's point system. You are strategically not going to survive if you don't become well aware of the League's system with respect to points as well as its rules.

Some leagues do not set up their points systems with much common sense. For example, certain players are never going to have more yards in total than the quarterback so points need to be awarded accordingly.

Also certain leagues will not make matters even-Steven at



all. You need to consider this type of situation because if you have a weak quarterback, you are going to get nowhere. It is important you find a league with a point system where points are allocated according to player. The point system needs to be harmonious in order that the teams may exist on an equal level with regard to competition. You don't want the point system so uneven that the same team wins week after week.

Therefore, the recommendation is that you find a league with a fair point system or the adverse effect will be you are not going to continue with them anyway. You'll burn out with respect to participation a little after a month. Make absolutely sure you are signed up with a league whose point system seems fair.

Also join leagues which have fifteen spots within their roster (on average). Each week you need to begin or start with a quarterback, two running backs, three wide receivers, one tight end, a kicker, and Defense. This setup will provide you with the best opportunity of winning. The team shown here will work for you especially if the quarterback you select is out early in the season.

You may end up selecting a host of various quarterbacks whose performances are totally lacking. However do not despair; you may have other players that are heavy duty allowing you to remain a contender until end of season. It is best to find a league that has fifteen spots within the roster.

Check out a league's system for trades and waivers. Certain leagues will give you a certain number of players which you may add or drop. Additionally, they'll limit the total number of times you can trade. It may be you don't like the restriction with respect to the numbers; therefore make sure you are okay with their rules regarding trades and waivers before signing up.

#### #4. Don't Select Your Tight End too Early

Certainly you understand team spirit however when putting together your Fantasy Football roster, you must remember as team owner a bit of individualized thinking is clearly in order. One area where your fellow team members will often blunder is selecting a tight end too early. This happens every season without fail. The way around this line of thought is not to get caught up in what the other team owners are erroneously doing; selecting certain positions too early.

You might want to converse favorably about tight ends with the other team owners. This will add value in the other guy's and girl's minds with regard to the position and they may make a mad rush in selecting their starting tight end. You may feel the urge to select a tight end within round four of the draft too. If you have already chosen two top tier running backs and wide receiver then you are allowed to take on a top flight tight end during the fourth round. If you can get a great tight end during round four who statistically had a great deal of yardage during the prior

season this is great.

However, if you can't pull in a top-tier tight end player during the fourth round, then it is advisable you wait it out. Any tight end you select after the fourth round is probably going to play about the same as the next guy. Don't pout if you are placed in the position of receiving a tight end within the later rounds of the Fantasy Football draft. Let's say you've attained your quarterback, two running backs, two or three wide receivers (pertinent to league) and begin looking about for a premier tight end at this point. The recommendation is: Don't take a tight end if there are better performers in the way of a running back or wide receiver. It is important you remember to select the best performer available with regard to position. This is after you have attained your top five or six starters. In other words, do not select the lesser position too early especially when stronger top-tier players within certain positions are still available.

Neither should you become skittish about approaching another team manager/owner about trading your premier starting tight end for their best running back. This sounds nervy but it will be worth it if you pull it off. Suggest a trade after the draft: Your exceptional tight end for the other team's starting running back. Don't hang back: Approach the other manager and effect the one on one trade. Do this if it will enhance your roster with respect to your top-tier wide receivers and running back talent.

The reason the tight end is someone you'll want to not consider too strongly is based from a historical Fantasy

Football perspective. If you ask certain Fantasy Football participants who are their league's winners to talk about their championships, they'll never mention the tight end position; they will talk about their running backs and wide receivers. However, the tight end's role in their team's win just does not come up. This is information you may wish to keep in the back of your mind prior to draft day. And, lastly, it is always important you review statistics prior to the Fantasy Football draft. Good sources include: the NFL website as well as Fantasy Football periodicals available at newsstands and larger book retailers.

#### #5. Draft Tips

Many people new to the game of Fantasy Football will read time and again the importance of preparing for draft day. Probably the reason that the subject cannot be stressed enough is because the draft is pretty much the ground work you lay in order to create a winning team. It is especially important to prepare if this is your first Fantasy Football draft. Here is where you make a first impression: and if you come off too clueless, people looking for the advantage are going to home in on you with a lousy deal later. In order to steer you on the right course, here are some tips about what to do on and before Draft day.

First on the agenda is to attain a copy of the rulebook for your league. Become familiar with your league's method of scoring, draft procedures and cash prizes. Also, many sites will offer Fantasy Football terms. It is necessary

to read through the terms just so there is no confusion later on. Read who the experts believe will be the sleeper players. A sleeper player is an athlete not well-recognized within the NFL but with a great deal of upside potential, generally based on his collegiate experience and who has filled in for a primary NFL player during that player's injury. One example of a prime sleeper this year is Matt Leinhardt who plays for the Arizona Cardinals.

Secondly, find out what the league's entry fees happen to be and bring your money. Also bring your cheat sheet (player rankings sheet); a Fantasy Football publication for those who wish to attain information; pencils and a hard surface on which to write. You might try bringing one of those hardback spiral notebooks. You can't realistically just bring sheets of writing papers and work off your knees. Also bring a folder set up to house your draft information and a roster grid.

Third, it is important you carefully observe and keep quiet. Here is a word to the wise: If the other teams already have three or four of a certain significant position and you have half that amount you are falling behind and in deep water. Also, keep your comments brief since you don't, want to give out the wrong first impression. In fact, the less said the better. The idea here is that by watching the other draft participants, you can attain a fairly good idea what is and is not appropriate.

Fourth, use discernment during your Fantasy Football tenure with respect to bye weeks. A bye week is when your NFL

player takes a break. Since your positions are spread across more than one NFL team it is important you do not have two positions which have identical bye weeks or weeks where each position is out of the game in the same week.

Fifth many newbies will make the mistake of filling up their roster in progressive order. Don't do this: For example, you want to attain your third running back before drafting for the kicker. A good rule of thumb to follow with respect to positions value is this: A player's value is not relative to the points he accumulates but how much he prevails with regard to scoring over his peer group players. It will be critical to review the scoring system of the league in order to make the proper decisions as to the player's worth.

Sixth, your cheat sheet is your business. In other words, don't share information on your cheat sheet with other team Fantasy owners. If you do so, you might as well hand over bonus points to the vying league member.

Seventh, while you are in between selections consider making a trade. If you believe your next pick is going to be chosen before you are up, then attempt to make a trade - your next two choices for a higher-ranked selection.

Eighth, when you are wrapping up your Fantasy Football draft your remaining choices should be the guys least likely to play or score substantially. Don't pick an older consistent player who manages to come up with several points each game. Save remaining positions for rookies or backup

players with some serious upside potential.

Ninth, Make certain you pay all the necessary fees. Come to an agreement with the Fantasy Football commissioner pertinent to your lineup and know the deadline date of your starting lineup.

Tenth, even though it is good as a newbie you prepare well for your Fantasy Football draft, you should also enjoy yourself while so doing. The main reason to participate in the game is to appreciate the camaraderie you share with other league players.

### #6. Fantasy Football Draft Rules

Many persons are attending their league's Fantasy Football draft totally unprepared. Regardless of how good-natured other team participants may appear, this gets under the skin of many. In order to avoid contempt from other league members remember the following rules

A: Be prepared for your league's draft. Individuals who show up late or are not certain who it is they wish to pick make it difficult for everyone else. In other words, review players' stats well before and just prior to draft day.

B: Stick with drafting your own team only. Do not allow anyone to recruit you to draft their team as well: Talk about conflict of interest—however it has been known to happen. Also consider this same scenario within the NFL: An NFL GM is unlikely to expect one of his sidekicks to draft for him or her.

C: If your league has opted to use an automatic draft option, then make certain you take the time to rank your Fantasy Football league players beforehand. This is pertinent since it is best for your team as well as your league. If you do not rank your draft order, you may end up with zero of one position and too many of another type of position. If this happens any trading you perform will appear questionable.

D: Do not rush the selection process. This doesn't infer you want to linger too long as far as your decision, however, you want to be careful and discerning enough so you don't accidentally draft a player with a similar name to the athlete you want, from the wrong team. It has been known to happen. Make certain you have the right guy before you press the button to draft them.

E: Do not take players too early causing panic within your league. If someone else chooses a player too early do not start to panic yourself. Make certain you do your homework as to where Fantasy athletes and respective positions belong within your league's Fantasy draft. By doing so, you will not turn anyone in your league against you, and you have a better shot at winning the playoffs.



Conclusively, by doing your homework and sticking with your own personal plan of action you'll be much better off. The point is to do your best and make your decisions based on your understanding of how player rankings affect your team's overall success.

### #7. Fantasy Football is Preferable to the Live Sport

Many people are finding they prefer Fantasy Football over hanging out at the sports bar and watching live games, but don't think for one minute that the NFL game is taking a back seat to it. Individuals may truly be enamored with the process of Fantasy Football, however they are still totally reliant on NFL stats and real live players' performances in order to win league championships. This means more viewing time is required since Fantasy Football players are drafted from varying NFL franchises.

There are many reasons individuals enjoy the game of Fantasy Football. For one thing, you are manager and owner of your own Fantasy Football team. It is up to you to strategize as far as the Fantasy Football draft and your starting lineup. This requires your time in studying player stats, and players listed as injured. For those wishing to win the cash prize at the end, the whole process can be very motivating. In this way, many Fantasy Football participants catch the fever of the game.

Secondly those who play Fantasy Football realize there is a competitive spirit to it that is impossible to resist. Many people enjoy rivaling friends and coworkers. This is quite an exciting aspect of the game. The process of preparation for the Fantasy Football draft just adds to the momentum, and although a good many Fantasy Football managers like to use the Internet at separate locations to conduct the draft, many arrange to bring laptops and make it an in-person event.

This can really get things cooking and fast: A group of NFL fans in one location selecting their Fantasy Football team. In order to better the odds for yourself, it is recommended you participate in mock drafts prior to the big event. In fact, it is essential you do so if you wish to perform well when the real Fantasy Football draft rolls around. And it probably can't be emphasized enough that it is also equally important you do your homework as far as draft day selection. This requires once again you know your league's point system and how it relates to players' stats.

In Fantasy land many persons believe the more teams involved the more harmonious and competitive the play. And as previously alluded, the way you play the game and strategy employed is as important as the real players who engage in the NFL game each week. If you don't have your football thinking cap on with respect to Fantasy Football play you won't stand a chance because part of the fun is the highly competitive nature of the game.

## #8. Fantasy Football is a Game for Everybody

Fantasy Football is a game where practically anyone can participate. It is not absolutely necessary you know a great deal about Fantasy Football in the beginning as this is a game that can be easily learned. The degree of effort you put into the game is equivalent to the results you achieve. Further, there are many league configurations, so you may readily find a league that fits with your style of play and preference as far as drafting players. The latter is stated since players are generally selected according to league scoring systems. This is to say, certain NFL players' style and levels of performance are worth more points-wise within certain leagues and other players' skills are highly regarded in other leagues. The sites who are supportive of Fantasy Football may offer a league wherein you pay an entry fee or secondly may offer participation free of charge.

Also, leagues in Fantasy Football have policies and rules you'll need to follow. A player is valued in coordination with his rankings and level of performance. Additionally a league may have a mechanism in place wherein all the best-valued football players cannot be scooped up by one single individual. In this light, the team is more balanced since players possess differing capabilities.

The automatic draft is a nice feature within a league configuration. The automatic draft allows the computer to choose your athletes. Other Fantasy Football owners prefer to research and put together their own player ranking sheets. Within the latter scenario, the Fantasy Football

manager makes his or her own draft decisions.

Regardless of whether you choose the auto pick feature to draft, or make your own selections, what you put together on draft day is going to follow you throughout the football season. So if you put together a well thought-out roster, you have a fairly good shot of getting to your Fantasy Football playoffs. However, if your draft picks were made without a lot of research or acquired knowledge on your part, you'll suffer the consequences of such ill preparation. If you are in it to win it is always best to review players' rankings and do some pre-season research before engaging in the Fantasy draft.

Many people participate in mock drafts initially. The mock draft gives the Fantasy Football newbie good practice so he or she will be able to masterfully breeze through the true Fantasy Football draft set up by his or her selected league. By participating in mock draft scenarios, you are able to gain insight and understanding as to proper strategy. Plus you'll find the process all the more enjoyable if you allow yourself to gain the confidence only afforded to you by practice. You may wish then, to investigate sites where Fantasy Football mock drafts are held.

### #9. Fantasy Football Survivor Pools

People engaged in Fantasy Football will enjoy the Survivor

Pool concept. If you like managing your own Fantasy Football team you will have a good deal of fun participating in a survivor pool. The survivor pool concept is really quite simple. All that is needed is that you pick the team within the NFL you believe is going to win that particular week. However, there is a spin on the way the pool is played in that you can instead predict the loser weekly. As you might have guessed by the name given, the last man or woman left standing is the overall winner and generally receives a cash prize.

The survivor pool works as follows: You predict the winner that week and if they win you move on to the next week. If your team loses you move out of the pool. The person who remains the longest predicting the correct NFL team to win is also the winner of the pool's cash reward. The NFL survivor pool is strongly popular from the standpoint there are fewer teams than collegiate teams within the NFL. This means the NFL teams are followed by more of the general population. This makes projecting who and who may not win during a particular week easier.

If you'd like to engage in a survivor pool then you may consider a) joining an existing pool; or b) setting up your own pool. The best aspect about creating your own NFL survivor pool is that you are allowed to decide the rules. This may be preferable to following the rules of a survivor pool set up by another individual.

Also what is good about participation in a survivor pool as it relates to Fantasy Football is that you get to stay informed about how players are doing within various NFL

teams. Before participating in Fantasy Football, most people were only engaged watching their favorite NFL team: This all changes when you become the owner of a Fantasy Football team. Since all of your players are spread across NFL franchises, it will be up to you to stay up-to-date with what is going on within all the teams. This is important if you wish to effect trades and make modifications to your roster.

You can make things even more challenging and interesting by setting up a survivor pool. You can see how well your instinct and accumulated knowledge with respect to NFL play is working out. Plus if you are the last man or woman standing you win a nice purse.

Many sites will host a survivor pool for a fee. It is very rare a survivor pool is hosted free of charge. Generally, requirements include: a) Up to a certain number of players may participate; b) There are rules in place with respect to tiebreakers. The rules are necessary in case more than one player is left standing; and c) An ending week must be established. Also there is allowance made for a team originally ousted because they didn't win during a certain week and now wish to buy their way back into pool participation. This form of buyback is referred to as a rebirth. With respect to a site that hosts a survivor pool: only so many buybacks or rebirths are generally allowed per team.

Some sites that host survivor pools will allow the pool to include auto picks within their pool's configuration. In this regard, auto picks may be allowed for a predetermined

number of weeks.

Generally, fees are determined with regard to rebirth fees and entry fees. The survivor pool is also referred to as a) an eliminator pool; b) last-man-standing pool; and c) knockout pool. However, the survivor pool is not the only Fantasy Football pool going. There are other pools with different rules such as a) confidence pools; b) Super Bowl square pools; and c) point spread pools.

Lastly, the number of persons participating within your survivor pool is going to determine how much cash you may win. However, outside of the monetary consideration, it is an excellent way, in addition to Fantasy Football to become involved in NFL sports.

#### #10. Get Ready for Fantasy Football Season

Taking the easy way out is not the way to go when playing Fantasy Football. It is possible to use the automatic draft option in order to select your Fantasy teams however you'll be on the short end of the stick in so doing since league championships are not won this way. In order to win you must be willing to be competitive when playing the Fantasy land sport.

The first and foremost consideration is to establish which Fantasy Football website you'd like to sign up with. You

will need to look at several sites and come to a decision as to which site you believe has the options, configurations and relative ease of navigation you prefer. The sites making strides as far as automation are worth looking at and will allow you to enjoy the game more fully.

Begin putting together a grouping of NFL players that will comprise your player rankings. It is true many of the Fantasy Football sites will list player rankings during the draft. However all people on your league will know that particular data. You will need a list that is ranked in accordance to how you expect your players will perform. If you initiate the right amount of research prior to the draft, you will be in a position to realistically enter the playoffs later on.

This is not as easy as it sounds. It is important during pre-season to assess the actions of free agents after last year's Super Bowl. Also, keep in the back of your mind there is plenty of time prior to the next football season from the Super Bowl's end for the NFL to construct a depth analysis of how they size up individual players. Mark possible vying positions for the number one and number two slots with respect to your own high-value slots.

Include the new players or rookies in the pool. The majority of rookies do not make much of a difference; you can make your choices for the draft amongst players that are more purposeful. Regardless, look at the rookies with diligence. Review the selections and envision where they figure into the chart with respect to depth. Do this even if it is apparent they are not the second choice running



back. Get to know the no-names and their upside and downside potential. A rookie on a good team could possibly become the star running back within a brief period of time.

Absorb news and reports regarding player injury. Make certain to place emphasis on the teams where there are strong rivaling positions and subsequently where the upside is the best. If you make detailed mental and written notes, this action can make all the difference in the world.

Do not just place reliance on your analysis of various players to pull you through: read a few Fantasy Football publications in addition to your investigations. Add some of the periodicals' sleepers to your pool of potential draft choices and you will have a nice selection which to track until it is time to participate in the Fantasy Football draft.

### #11. How Much is that Player really Worth?

Even if you are new to the game of Fantasy Football you probably have become somewhat accustomed to cheat sheets. Within these sheets auction values are shown for various players. However, what you might not be aware of is that many cheat sheets found on-line and within Fantasy Football periodicals are based on each league member beginning with one-hundred dollars. There are other cheat sheets that base values wherein each person in the league starts out with two-hundred dollars or what can be termed as a

two-hundred dollar setup.

Some of the cheat sheets do not make it clear which system the lists are based. Just keep it in mind because some people will start spending basing their bids on a one-hundred dollar auction when in reality they are looking at a two-hundred dollar listing. You don't want to do this because you'll spend your money more quickly and overpay on the player if successfully win the bid.

Again, many of the sites do not make it clear what the starting amounts happen to be for the auctions. Also many of the site content writers will simply not make it clear what size of league they're referring with respect to the numbers provided. For example, if the league is over ten teams, the associative values should differ considerably. It has been said even the Fantasy Football player who wins quite often does not consider this aspect.

The information as to value is significant because in order for everything to be fair the players who perform the best should go for larger dollar amounts within the bigger leagues. For example, let's assume your league is comprised of ten teams. Each team has a beginning amount of one-hundred dollars. This means your league has a total dollar amount of one-thousand dollars. The equation is ten teams multiplied by one-hundred dollars for each team. The best fifty players represent approximately three-quarters of the league's total money available for the auction. If your league spends more than this amount there must be justification or reasonable value down the road. If three-quarters of the total money is not spent for top

players there is too much capital still in use for less-substantial athletes.

Also keep in mind the above scenario is for a ten person team. You'll need to make adjustments percentage wise as far as bidding on top-ranked players accordant with number of teams within your league. For example, the same starting dollar amount with two more teams is going to amount to a greater total pool. This is pertinent from the standpoint you have more money pooled to apply toward the more substantial players.

If you spend approximately seventy-five to eighty percent on the best fifty football players at auction, the amount spent out of one-thousand two-hundred dollars will fall right under the thousand dollar mark. You never want to overspend on a player. Lastly, stay apprised of the starting amount or you will probably forfeit your opportunity to acquire one more star player.

Conclusively, determining what size of league the cheat sheet is based upon will be helpful with respect to how you fare at your Fantasy Football Auction.

## #12. How to Approach Auctions

Many people new to Fantasy Football would be well-advised to approach auctions with a strategic course of action.

Think things through before you start bidding and do not allow yourself to be tempted to steer off course. Once you have mapped out what players you like stay with your original intent. You can make modifications where essential; however, do not make impulsive bids based on nothing more than sheer enthusiasm.

Take into account how the auction tends to be emerging. Are the bidders going with gusto or are they behaving in a more subdued manner? It is important you gain a sense of how the auction is trending from the very beginning in order to strategize effectively. Although, you don't want to react too strongly; you don't want to let go of good opportunities others are missing.

Let's first presume most bidders are really enthusiastic and are spending their cash on the top-rated players: then it makes sense for you to take a totally different approach. This infers there are bargains for you further down the road. Football players outside of the top-tier class may possibly be acquired for a conservative outlay of cash.

The opposite side of the coin is when everyone is holding on their purse strings a bit too tightly especially when it comes to the top-ranked players. If this is the case, you need to go ahead and spend your money on the top rated athletes. The reason being, these persons who tend to be holding out are probably going to get into full-scale bidding competitions with others over third ranked players; they have the capital to affect this. Again, take the sensible course and invest your money in the players you prefer within the top tier.

Lastly, it may be wise to leave some positions open for players you aren't personally fond of. In this way if you need to cut a player, you won't be too disappointed you did not pay a great deal for him. Also understand your league's rules with respect to trades and free agents. In so doing, you'll be able to strategize better as far as your overall roster. Lastly, keep your eyes and ears open at all times as far as current players' stats.

### #13. How to Attain Successful Draft Day Results

The quarterback within the NFL is without question the leader when looking outside the realm of Fantasy Football, but is this true within the fantasy sport? Reality check: In Fantasy land the quarterback's importance is determined by the scoring system of the Fantasy Football league. The rankings with respect to the quarterback may be decidedly the most significant variable with regard to Fantasy Football team success. As an example, it would be difficult to imagine Drew Brees still available, and the fantasy manager going ahead and drafting a top-tier wide receiver or running back. The quarterbacks that fall behind the top of the line producers will still average a respectable twenty four touchdowns on average, meaning differences in touchdowns are not all that substantial between top-tier players and the quarterbacks next in line.

The top-tier guys or quarterbacks can average thirty touchdowns which is exceptional. The point here is that

levels of production in respect to the quarterback position are not all that great between the prime producers and the quarterbacks sitting at the next plateau. This is not the case with the running back and wide receiver positions. You are going to find a great deal more difference in their skill levels when you step down a level.

If you are fortunate enough in pulling a top-tier running back within the first round of your fantasy draft, then go ahead and select someone like Drew Brees as your second choice. Be aware also where you are at within the Draft. If you are participating in a serpentine draft within a league of twelve and you choose a quarterback first within the second round (meaning thirteenth), it will be at (picks) thirty-six; and, thirty-seven before you can choose once more. The main wide receiver and running back talent will be taken by that point: In other words, if you take a quarterback at second, you'll not be able to attain a viable wide receiver or running back.

It is advisable then to say "pass on the quarterback" until later rounds of your Fantasy draft if you will not be able to come up with a top-tier candidate in the interim. A smart Fantasy manager will recognize that if he or she is not able to attain at least two of the top producing quarterbacks, it is wiser to attain a top-tier wide receiver or running back during the early part of the draft and pick up the quarterback later.

It is further important to take a look at the National Football League's schedule for the current football season. Check and see which quarterbacks have the most favorable

schedules for the season. Certain positions will have extremely difficult schedules while other players who don't need easier schedules will have schedules that are very favorable. Very strong producers may have tougher schedules at certain critical times of the year such as the fourteenth week, so you may wish to think about that when it comes time to draft.

Since we are talking about quarterback draft strategy, advisably do not become upset when you realize after round five all the quarterbacks you consider ideal picks are taken. First do some math: If your league is comprised of twelve individuals, reasonably you are vying for over thirty-two positions with respect to quarterback. There are other guys out there in the quarterback position besides an athlete like Brees.

The important thing is not allow yourself to be lured into hype or emotion with regard to your picks. Just stay with your original plan as much as possible.

Additionally, sources you may refer to with respect to your decision-making include: the NFL official website as well as Fantasy Football guides found at retailers and popular newsstands. Relying on the two latter resources as far as stats are enough to make good sound decisions as far as draft choices within your league.

#### #14. How to Create your Own Ranking Sheets

Many Fantasy Football players will wish to put together their own player ranking sheets. Compiling player ranking sheets can be quite an accomplishment. Here is how to put together your own Fantasy Football projections.

When putting together projections it is wise to keep in mind that most individuals make the error of assuming that the same players that performed well the year before will make it into the top ten during the current season. This is simply not true. In fact, if you were to review the rankings sheets put together by Fantasy Football managers you'd find many of the sheets closely resemble the player rankings for the prior year. Generally, about thirty percent of players who placed within the top ten the season before will make it to the top ten the next year. As a rule of thumb the premium players do not repeat past performances.

Before you totally throw away the prior season's stats slow down a minute. You will still require a starting point in order to make future projections. In other words, you don't want nearly identical stats employing the thinking: "Well, if these guys did well the year before they'll do well again." No. Then you are missing the whole point of putting together your own stats. However, neither do you want to dump the prior season's ratings in the garbage. Just hold onto them for the time being and use them as a starting point and a base in order that you may put together your own player rating sheets.



First off, when thinking about projections, you need to think a bit like a stock analyst. Many times changes within the team will have an effect as to how your Fantasy player performs. What types of changes? As an example is there a change within the coaching staff? Changes with respect to offensive coordinator will make a difference. Will the new staff coaching the team expect more runs or passes? Did any of the teams within the NFL make drastic improvements with regard to their offense? Also during the year many players gained experience.

On the other side of the coin other players received additional pounding from a physical standpoint. Certain teams watched valuable players leave and other teams acquired the players who departed. Also how will new players or rookies affect a certain team? The idea here is in order to properly predict what is to come during the next season you will need to think about all of these various scenarios with respect to how it affects your player's level of performance.

If you are wondering where to get the information to reasonably address all of the questions in your mind, the best suggestion is to attain all kinds of news and information on Fantasy Football. You will find there is no short supply of Fantasy Football news online. In fact, NFL news is something many individuals read each and every day so it is generally available everywhere. You aren't going to find it difficult to locate the news; however, how are you going to read through the information and assess it properly with respect to the players? This is part of the challenge and enjoyment of putting together projections for Fantasy Football.

Most people who make a living out of selling rankings will instruct you if you want to do an adequate job in putting together your own projection sheets you must absorb information until your brain hurts. Also you'll notice the more you read, the greater your need to express your opinion with respect to the various NFL players. You will start possessing an opinion as to how one player prevails over another and so on and so forth. Look at all kinds of opinions before you place any significance on the opinion you've formulated with regard to certain players.

Once you have poured over opinions it is time to put your thoughts in writing. Perform projections for each NFL player you believe is someone who should be part of the Draft. The number of players that are inclusive as far as draft consideration should be right around the two hundred mark. This is based on a league with twelve teams. (This does not pertain to IDPs). Incorporating a scoring system with regard to the players' projections will provide you with player rankings for each of the NFL positions. If some projections look a little off-the-wall, then you've done your job. It is important you think for yourself when projecting a player's level of performance for the upcoming season.

### #15. How to Draft a Defense

Most veterans of Fantasy Football, if they were to serve as your mentor or coach, may offer you one effective piece

of valuable advice and that is: When it comes to your defense, don't draft early. However, you may inquire: If an NFL team is known for its superlative defense is drafting early such a bad thing? No matter which way you slice it, it isn't good.

Even if your favorite NFL team of all time has a fantastic defense: This is fantasy land and you don't want to draft early. There are a number of reasons for it so here are some tips to put matters in perspective.

One NFL fan describes a situation where he was so enamored with his favorite NFL team's defense he decided during one reality game he'd make it a point to place the defense on his Fantasy Football team the next season: And so he did and early on during the draft. What happened isn't surprising to many Fantasy Football veterans or individuals who generally follow NFL stats. The team that rode out of the prior season in a "blaze of glory" was adequate, but not the impressive force it had been during the prior season. Needless to say, this individual did not do so well with the strategy. It was clear the fan's favorite NFL team was unable to maintain their edge two years running.

The above-scenario is another reason following NFL stats is doubly-important in order to win Fantasy Football championships. You'll frequently find there are teams that cannot remain consistent from one season to the next. Why is this? There can be a number of reasons for a team's deterioration in performance.

One reason for inconsistency is that the defense of the previous season may have lost a couple of its shining stars. There also may be athletes on the injury list and this will hamper the defense's level of play. Or it can be that some players have become lax after a stressful season and eat and drink too much.

Regardless, of reason for declination of levels of performance a wise recommendation is to never draft early for defense, especially based on the team's prior year's record.

#### #16. How to Draft a Kicker

When you become part of a Fantasy Football draft you will find there is a great deal of importance placed on position. The position that proves the least meritorious is the position of kicker. Although we don't devalue the person who lends his contribution in this area, as far as your Fantasy team goes this is not the position that is going to win you league championship. There are some people when participating in their first Fantasy draft who draft early on for the defense and kicker. It isn't exactly terrible to have done this; however, other team managers may be thinking "how clueless" and subsequently make mental notes to approach such unsuspecting individuals with insubstantial trades further on down the road. This is why it is important you understand how to effectively participate in your Fantasy trade - because you aren't playing the game in order that another team can take

advantage.

Kickers may seem to be an easy afterthought in which to draft; however this position can present some real problems. It may be said that kickers can pull off some fairly good weeks; however, they then may fizzle out and go back to standard. Many managers consider the kicker the lower position within the Fantasy Football chain and this thinking is generally correct. If you do draft a kicker early, look at the offensive line of that person's team. If the offensive line isn't premier then forget drafting the kicker early. Also, a player can get on a game streak where he is scoring points like crazy however, when reviewing prior seasons his points earned can look downright pathetic. In fact, low points can get an athlete booted to Fantasy Football's wire "faster than a speeding bullet."

The moral here is even if a kicker is having an outstanding year, he should be the least of your considerations as far as positions go when reviewing either the waiver wire or looking at him with respect to the draft. It always helps to draft a player who is a good kicker and has a history of scoring a good number of field goals for his team. Again, selection goes back to stats. And certainly you should attain the best kicker available, just don't draft for the position early unless of course the offensive line is premier and the kicker is well above-average.

#17. How to Implement Running Back by Committee

The following article places emphasis on a new concept referred to as running back by committee or RBBC. Historically, the teams of the NFL had one premium running back who received around thirty carries per game. The concept was that in order for the RB to be his most effective he needed around thirty carries. It is different now. Within the RBBC concept there may be two different type of running backs used. This strategy is employed to assure the opposition is taken slightly off kilter.

You may ask: How does RBBC or running back by committee effect Fantasy Football? Here is the scoop in this regard. Prior within Fantasy land the RB prevailed since he generally scored the most touchdowns each game. However, with the Running Back by Committee the preceding no longer holds water. In this case, is it the better move to draft the committee or what? You have several choices so in order to find out the best strategy to employ it is best to review what is available to you.

One idea is to draft the premium running backs. The upside to this idea is if your players end up on the injury list you still have a fairly good opportunity of winning your league championship. Additionally, you will have the players with the most value with respect to the RBBC from different franchises. However, the downside to this option is that even if you start the football season with two running backs from two separate NFL teams, if one of your star running backs is injured you may find yourself in a less than favorable situation.

Another idea is to draft the RBBC from one team. The strength in this idea is that if one of the running backs is injured there is still a premium running back available. The flip side of this idea is that if no injuries are incurred whatsoever you are saddled with production from two part time running backs for the rest of the season

A third technique is to draft running backs who are seconds within the committee; however allow them to play next to a player with a high occurrence of injury. The ideal situation is to attain one premium running back and include two (2) number two players who possess a reasonable possibility of stepping in during the football season. The only downside to this strategy is that number two may never reach number one.

The way you make a decision with respect to the preceding is by assessing how comfortable you feel with each of the scenarios. The best strategy is probably the third concept. This is due to the fact if number two does become number one it is the highlight of the season, especially during playoff time.

### #18. How to Manage Bye Weeks

Those who regularly engage in Fantasy type sports may insist that Fantasy Football is generally the simplest sport since there are only sixteen weeks to consider within a season. This is the reality however, there are several other

considerations for with Fantasy Football that do not apply to the other Fantasy sports.

One area is bye weeks. During the season of the NFL, the schedule indicates that certain teams do not participate in play during one of the weeks beginning at week number four and ending at week number ten. Generally four NFL teams are given a bye week within this seven week period. Six teams will have a week to regroup and will not be scheduled for play. The idea of the bye week therefore is to allow each team to rehabilitate themselves from injuries and relax.

The bye week presents a challenge as far as draft preparation of Fantasy Football players. It is always necessary to review bye weeks with respect to drafting star talent onto your Fantasy Football team. The bye week makes it necessary for the Fantasy Football manager to ensure those weeks are covered as far as respective lineups.

Some sites offer a seemingly effective solution as to bye week coverage and attaining premium player's points. There is a configuration within some leagues referred to as bye week rollover. If this option is allowed, team Fantasy Football managers may select to use the week preceding the bye week as their player's performance with respect to points during the bye week: thus the term rollover.

However, there is a stipulation to the rollover concept and that is the decision to roll over player's points needs to



be made prior to the game during the preceding week. In order to illustrate, let us say one team has your player facing a particular team during week five and this player has a bye week in week six. If the Fantasy Football manager decides to check the box to roll over the player's points for that game to his bye week before the game during week five, the player's points will be sealed into place for week six in addition to week five. This is a two for one type of deal.

However, the downside is that there is no absolute certainty your player will perform better than another player on the roster whom you could as easily have started in the sixth week. If your player, wherein you've employed the rollover option gets seriously hurt during the game, you are stuck with his points in week six, so you are taking a bit of a chance in selecting the option.

However that said the concept of the rollover is to make it convenient for the manager to assign a premium player's points from one week prior to the week the player takes off in order he or she is not left with the hassle of making modifications to the lineup.

### #19. How to Pick from the Waiver Wire

Determining your picks from the waiver wire requires knowledge. For example, you may be able to pick up several notable positions from the free market, but regardless of

an all-around skill set you'll find some guys start out great guns and fizzle out later during the season. And then there are the consistent players who produce well from start to finish. So how do you determine which players are going to steadily produce; and which athletes will seem to forget how to make it to the end zone? First, you want to look at the player's history. A quarterback with limited NFL history in the way of production is not a good choice.

The second consideration when choosing from the free market is how the athlete responds to an opportunity. In other words, how do they seize the moment? This is why watching games and becoming fully involved with the NFL is very important. There are guys sitting on the bench who have proven their self-worth when asked to step in for one of the starters who were taken off the field due to injury. Here we are pointing toward history again. What makes one benchwarmer special and another guy benched not so much? Some guys are in the right place at the right time.

There have been athletes who filled in during the early part of the season and two weeks later are placed within the starting lineup. This is the sort of athlete whose performance is so awesome the team is changed forever - for the best. Such individuals have good athletic histories - many times in other sports as well as football. They may have had excellent records when participating in certain college sports and have been sitting on the bench waiting patiently for a lucky break.

Then there is the opposite side of the coin. Here you have a bench warmer who has had an excellent performance-week

filling in for a star performer. However, you don't want to consider this guy one of your waiver wire picks. Why? Well for one thing within this scenario the star producer is going to return the next week if his injury isn't considered critical. Second, everyone knows deep down this fill-in guy isn't going to ever be starter regardless of the fact he had one week of glory. The latter athlete is not where you want to place your money. Generally speaking, it is best to be assured the persons you are able to pick up from the waiver wire have had some time under their belt playing football.

Persons playing in larger leagues may have a tougher time filling lineups than individuals on leagues with a lesser number of teams. The size of a large league makes it difficult for a team owner to fill up his or her starting lineup. Individuals interested in Fantasy Football participation are probably better off signing up with eight team leagues. Just because an athlete you barely know had a good preceding week doesn't mean you should make a mad dash in order to add him to your roster. It is still best to proceed with caution and weigh all of your choices on the waiver wire.

For example, has the athlete been recently dropped because his stats were falling? Or has he had a history of good productions within the NFL? If so, he might be worth considering. The athlete with a track record of production may be the better selection than the guy whose name you never heard with a good run the prior week. The latter might be a case of beginner's luck. It is something worth considering. However, just to give the rookie a shot, you may look at him again about a month later and see if he still

looks good production-wise. There is a good chance he will still be available.

You will need to consider the waiver wire if you expect to win your leagues championship. This is why it is critical you keep up to date with who is available. There are scenarios in the land of NFL reality wherein the athlete who wasn't even given a second thought changed a team's entire dynamic. Paying attention in this regard is important, because many eventual top performers played well in other team sports. They're just sitting on the sidelines waiting for their opportunity. And on the flip side, there is the guy who doesn't have much of a track record anywhere however had an outstanding week—he isn't someone you need to pick up from the waiver wire. Again, looking at both scenarios it basically boils down to reviewing player's stats and past histories.

## #20. How to Play the Game within Special Leagues

Most people new to Fantasy Football may want to know how to play the game with respect to certain types of leagues? There are different types of leagues where you may engage in the game. Each league is set up differently so the game is played a little bit differently within different types of leagues. Here is how the game of Fantasy Football is played within the Rotisserie league and the Head-to-Head style league. Once you understand the difference you can make up your mind which Fantasy Football league is right for you.

The Head-to-Head league arrangement is a league where you compete against a new team within your league each week. The idea is that the owner who can attain the most points by week's end is the winner for that particular week. You start over as far as points the week thereafter and once again compete. If the total points amount to the same for several teams, then the commissioner of the Head-to-Head league makes the decision as to which group's points will be used to break ties.

The advantage of playing in a Head-to-Head league is that play is more closely aligned with actual NFL play. Why is this so? Well, for one thing, on any particular day you might find yourself upsetting the competition. This is more exciting than if you join leagues where things don't get exciting until nearly the end of football season. Many who participate in head-to-head leagues feel the weekly competition provides much more momentum to the game of Fantasy Football simply due to the fact competing starts anew each week.

Further, at the end of the football season, all the teams in the Head-to-Head league are evaluated in order to determine who takes part in the grand Fantasy Football playoffs. The championship games are conducted in the same head-to-head format. Naturally, the team that wins overall or wins the season's last playoff is the Fantasy Football champion.

Things are different in the Rotisserie league. Rather than

your team's points being tallied over the entirety of the NFL football season, points are accumulated to the end of the year. This means if you do well all season but one of your higher point players get clobbered during a single game, you may end up holding the short end of the stick. Just remember the total points accumulated for the season determines the team winner of a Rotisserie league.

You could lose one game where you really got nailed by the competition and win all the other games and still lose your league's championship title. If you prefer to play closer to NFL style it may be advisable to try a Head-to-Head league for starters: particularly if you are a newbie.

### #21. How to Select a Fantasy Football Team

In order to strategize effectively when assembling a Fantasy Football team, it will be necessary to pay close attention how certain top players perform within their reality NFL teams. Next as the season progresses with regard to your Fantasy game ask yourself what has been beneficial to you with regard to the players you've selected and the players you've traded.

Players you choose who are top-tier and suffer no significant injuries during the true NFL season and play well, make it possible for you to accumulate points. You can attain player rankings to your phone and stay informed of how well specific Fantasy players are doing when engaging

in NFL play. Players' values can rise and fall similar to that of the stock market. Some players who actually have much potential are highly under-valued: these are referred to as sleepers. Some of these individual can make the difference in your winning or losing a championship.

In order to be effective in selecting your Fantasy Football team you will need to be knowledgeable about player rankings; this will be useful to you on Draft day. The principle here is to fit the player to your league's scoring system. Naturally, you will need to first become highly familiar with how a player's performance is scored with respect to your league.

There are a number of league configurations and scoring is set up differently within different types of leagues. Once you've established what is important within the league as far as performance, then base your draft day picks on what the league considers fundamentally significant. For instance, if your league places weight on yardage, then draft players who can deliver in this area. If your league places higher points and value on touchdowns, then naturally look for players who do well scoring in this area. While this may seem simplistic the main point is to the point is to base your decision where your league places value.

In summary, the key to putting together your Fantasy football team is by a) Following NFL play before ever getting involved in the Fantasy sport; b) Tracking player rankings; c) Reviewing different styles of League configurations and then apprising yourself of how their scoring systems work; and d) Once signing up for a league,

plan on fitting top-tier players or second-choices to where the League places values as far as scoring. Further, keep an eye out for people waiting on the bench just to be discovered who possess good collegiate athletic backgrounds; and who have a great deal of upside potential. Watching play, and paying attention, plus keeping your mouth shut and listening means money in the bank.

## #22. How to Set Up Your Own Fantasy Football League

Many people engaged in Fantasy Football will set up their own teams; however some individuals rather step things up a notch and set up a Fantasy Football League. This isn't as difficult as you may first think. Here is how to easily put together your own league. You are sure to enjoy the process.

You are not going to have much of a league if you don't have teams. It is always fun to see friends and work associates as well as family vying against each other, so encourage people within each of these groups to join your Fantasy Football league. You will need an even number of teams. A good amount is around ten. If you aren't able to reach ten, then you can always set up a public league; such leagues exist on popular sites such as ESPN.

The next step in regard to your Fantasy Football league is to think about a system of scoring. Usually, players are assigned points based on the week's statistical



information. Generally players receive one point for each ten yards rushed or received; one point for twenty-five yards passing and six points for a touchdown. The kicker attains points for field goals and defense receives points for sacks and turnovers.

The above point system may be adjusted either up or down however the one shown is relatively standard. The majority of leagues make it possible for you to tweak the numbers and then provide an update as to players' rankings after the modification is made. If you aren't crazy about how the point system pans out after some initial modification, you can tweak it some more.

The last item in setting up your Fantasy Football league is determining how and when you will hold your Fantasy Football league's draft. Historically, everyone met in one brick and mortar location in order to initiate the league's draft; however, nowadays the draft can be managed online.

If your team members are in different parts of the country, naturally you will want to hold the draft over the Internet. If you are community-based then holding a draft live can be a great deal of fun. Most drafts are serpentine drafts meaning the individual with the last pick within the first round gets the initial pick in round two and the order reverses itself with each round thereafter. In this way, the draft plays out more equitably.

## #23. How to Win when Picking Last in the Draft

It is not necessary to become disheartened when coming in last during your Fantasy Football draft. Many people would lose momentum the minute they heard they had hit last place. However, such need not be the case with you. Someone has to come last as to player selection in the draft. Here is how you can still win your Fantasy Football league's championship even if you are in the 12th spot.

Naturally, unless the other league players are clueless, you will need instruction as to how to get around being last in your Fantasy's draft. The technique in the unwritten rulebook of Fantasy Football techniques is to select the best two of the Running Backs you can manage before choosing another position.

Some things you just need to accept. If all the premium players are taken: Well. . . it is just a fact. Since you are at the number twelve position of the draft, you are allowed two selections - one right after another. Here is where you do not want to make a rush to judgment. In other words, you do not want to choose one premium player running back and one insubstantial wide receiver. This will be an error with all kinds of resulting consequences. At this juncture you must choose top backs that are up for selection. Take two of the best four as your initial and second picks.

Then try to concentrate on your third and fourth draft choices. It goes without saying, you are going to have a nice pool of receivers which to select. Noted you aren't going to get top-of-the-line choices; but you will get picks that are good second choices. Still the key is to attain your two running backs initially and next choose your two receivers. This strategy works well every time.

The quarterback positions are generally always available. Let's face it, there are a fair number of teams within the National Football League. Thirty-two to be precise and it is doubtful the pool of quarterbacks is going to be drained dry. So what does it matter if the top quarterbacks have already been selected? You can still attain some fairly good second-choices. Also analyze the Fantasy land situation with respect to the quarterback. Think about drafting a good performing veteran quarterback who has been on the injury list the last season. If this guy has recuperated from last season's slight injury then take advantage of his restored health. Many veteran quarterbacks can play just as precisely as the best quarterbacks.

Now here is the "clincher:" There is no guarantee that the preceding advice will enable you to win. However, you have a much better shot at winning than if you don't follow it. The preceding is probably the best advice you may receive when picking in last spot.

Also, to your Fantasy advantage, those star players that the guys and girls in the top selection spots of the Fantasy Draft were able to scoop up easily do get injured. This

is not to say you wish to see any of the NFL football players hit the injury list. However it is a fact of NFL life—injuries happen and many times to the top players. This can occur and in Fantasy land if your guys are healthy and the other team's guy is benched due to injury, the other manager scores less points – simple as that. Also, some stars go to jail. If this should happen to the other team; so be it. However, as you know, it is a little bit hard to make touchdowns when locked up.

Additionally, you will need to pick your tight ends after you have picked your running backs and receivers. The defense is not going to break or make you. It is advisable to choose the best defense team that is still up for the taking. Naturally, if your defense back doesn't work for you there is always the waiver wire option. The kicker position isn't going to make much of a difference on a team that scores well. If you have to pick in last position with regard to your Fantasy Football draft, armed with the above advice, now you can do so and with confidence.

#### #24. Increase Your Confidence with a Confidence Pool

Many Fantasy Football participants find participation in a confidence pool makes learning NFL play all the easier. There is an upside in joining a confidence pool and that is the nice cash prize you are rewarded if you win. The person who participates in a Fantasy Football confidence pool is asked to choose the winners of each NFL game for that week. You then assign points. These points are

referred to as confidence points. Once the NFL team you selected to win does so, you attain the number of points you assigned to that particular game.

Many of the confidence pools will naturally charge an entrance fee. The fee is taken from all the pool's players and then dispensed in the way of seasonal cash prizes or weekly cash. The individual who wins for the week has accumulated the highest number of points from choosing winners. The points need to be as close to one hundred thirty six points as possible. The winner of each week's contests and points are tallied throughout the NFL football season. This is necessary in order to review league standings. In this light, it is possible for you not only to win a cash reward weekly but also for the season.

Individuals who are new to the confidence pool as well as seasoned veterans are allowed to play against one another. A site who hosts the confidence pool allows the pool's creator to choose from a broad array of settings. Some sites will host free confidence pools; to find them you'll just need to do some searching.

A nice feature of the confidence pool is that it will allow a participant owner to dispose of a couple bad weeks per season. The weeks disposed of are also referred to as "drop weeks." Many sites allow the confidence pool participants the opportunity of auto picks by way of a certain default option. In this way, if you are unable to play yourself during a certain week, you are still in the game.

The idea behind the confidence pool is to assign points to certain teams respective to your level of confidence in the team. The factors to consider when making your selection of winning team, are: a) players on the injured list; b) team match ups; c) weather conditions; and d) other prevailing factors. It is important you stay involved with NFL play, reviewing at least two websites you trust and watching the games. Confidence pools in addition to your Fantasy Football play will keep you involved with what is going on within the NFL. This additionally increases the possibility of your winning in both areas: Confidence pools and Fantasy Football.

If you've read this far, you deserve some advice on how to win your Confidence Pool. Beyond the obvious (which is to make sure to assign points according to your confidence), every confidence league player should be aware of the major factors that affect winning in the NFL: injuries, weather, home-field advantage, team matchups, and coaching matchups. Studying all of this information for every game can be tedious for the non-NFL-aholic, but there are many websites and experts that will offer predictions for each game. It's worth checking with these websites if you don't have time to do the research yourself.

#### #25. Is an Auction Better than a Draft?

Are you looking towards receiving a fair shot of attaining all the players you prefer to have on your team's roster? Many leagues are now holding auctions instead of the Draft.

In order to make matters seem as realistic as possible within their Fantasy Football game, some leagues will opt for Drafts. The preceding is all fine and good however to make matters as fair as possible an Auction should be considered.

You can go the auction route easily enough. There is free online auction software available through ESPN that can be modified. In using the auction format everyone has the same opportunity to acquire the same player. Naturally, the person who bids the highest is going to add the favored player to their team's lineup. Auctions are exciting venues and bidding for your Fantasy Football team players is no exception. Once you attain team members in this manner you are hooked, and many persons who once were okay with the Fantasy draft just won't go back to it.

If you have friends and family within your Fantasy Football league make the auction an event. The auction is conducted on-line so you can get members of your league to participate wherever they reside. However, if you have neighbors and friends close by, tell them, if they can manage it to bring over their laptops and create a spirit of participation.

You may find your league colleagues and family members like the auction format better than the draft. This naturally is partly due to the fact everyone has more of an equal shot at the same player. Plus you get to look at all the players and there is plenty of activity with respect to the bidding. Also, as it pertains to the draft, no one wants to be the last person to pick. This puts them at such a disadvantage. The last pick scenario is eliminated when

you choose to acquire your team's roster through an online Fantasy Football auction.

Many leagues are choosing the auction since it allows for a more equitable means for its owners or members to attain players. Further, the auction route allows you to strategize more easily than a draft. Try the auction route and see if you don't agree it is the fairest and best way to put together your Fantasy Football team.

### #26. Keeping Score

One area it is important to become familiar with is your league's scoring system. Here are some tips on how a Fantasy scoring system generally works. First off, in the NFL, the team receives six points when a touchdown is scored. This is the case of course no matter which player scores the touchdown.

The quarterback receives four points for scoring a touchdown in Fantasy Football. The Running Back and Wide Receiver positions attain six points for a Fantasy Football touchdown.

There isn't a universal scoring system applicable to Fantasy Football so the information offered here is more the rule than the exception with regard to scoring. A touchdown that is passed in Fantasy Football is usually



worth four points. Receiving and rushing touchdowns are good for six points and defensive scores are generally six points.

It is recommended you ask about the points system before signing up with any Fantasy Football league. Also, it is important you are okay with the point system since this will not only impact your decision-making as far as your draft selections; it is also pertinent as to whom you'll start or bench weekly.

Also consider play position with respect to points. Let's say your quarterback receives six points for making a touchdown and one of your other starters receives the same number of points for reaching the end zone. Which do you believe is more valuable to you? Naturally, you'll answer the quarterback. He is far more likely to make a touchdown than any of the other positions.

All leagues are different and some leagues will offer extra points for lengthy field goals. If such is the case with your Fantasy Football league, you'll need to acquire a good kicker. Other leagues offer extra points for touchdowns thrown at lengthy distances. If this is the case find a quarterback with a good arm. What is being conveyed here is when your league provides bonuses for certain performance levels, then make certain you have the man in the position that is most likely to deliver for you.

Lastly, even though points vary from league to league the one area that seems to remain consistent across the board

is yards. For example, it is one point for each yard received or rushed and generally one point for every twenty-five yards passed. You'll always find some eccentric variances to this rule; however, the points shown here with respect to yards are fairly common.

## #27. League Rules and Point Systems

It is important to understand your league's point system and regulations. This will be necessary in order to strategize well when playing the game of Fantasy Football. In order to give you a head's up here is some information relative to leagues' point systems.

Once you start looking around Fantasy land you are going to find some leagues have put together some crazy way-out point systems. The sensible approach to scoring is always best. For example, a good running back is going to have far less yards during a game than your premium quarterback. In response, the logical way to score is to reward the quarterback for higher yards and the running back for lesser yards.

That said the standard within the majority of leagues is to award the running back one point for every ten yards, while the quarterback is rewarded one point for every twenty yards.

Another point to consider is this: if the league does not have a common point system that makes sense to you and you attain a player who is a lower-level producer, your overall points are going to suffer. The idea in putting together a good points system is to find one where points are rewarded according to the position and what that player may accomplish during a game.

When your point system is in order, the team is ranked on a more even par as far as levels of competition. But if the point system is outrageous this may mean certain premium players who score well may provide automatic wins for the Fantasy Football manager. In order to attain strong competition and fairness weekly, it is very important that the point system is well-balanced and players are not overly compensated point-wise especially if the positions are highly valued. If you don't make certain the point system makes sense or is categorically logical then you'll probably burn out early.

Another item the majority of leagues have is what is referred to as roster slots and there are generally fifteen slots. However, some leagues have more than fifteen slots. The newbie will want to sign up for a league that has a fair amount of slots. Also the roster is generally comprised of the quarterback, two running backs, three wide receivers, a tight end, a kicker and the defense. Many persons prefer this roster lineup since it provides them with the best opportunity of winning. Additionally, check to see how trades work and other areas useful to you when rounding out your lineup weekly.

## #28. Many Options Exist for Fantasy Football

Fans who enjoy watching NFL games or find the whole concept of Fantasy Football intriguing do not have any excuse not to participate in the fantasy sport. Persons trekking through Fantasy land will find a whole host of options available. Further, participating in Fantasy Football makes watching the game all the more enjoyable.

There are options galore when making the decision where to host your Fantasy Football team. Hosts where Fantasy Football is commonly played include Yahoo Sports and Sporting News among others.

There are several formats with respect to the league you may join. Some leagues require that you pay upfront in order to become part of the league. However, the same league may not charge for players you add during the season which are considered free agents. Additionally the more you pay in the way of a fee in order to initially join the league, the greater is your cash prize if you win your league's playoff.

The second type of league accessible is one wherein you may join for free. However, even though entry is free, you may pay for players you've claimed as free agents or off the waiver wire after the Fantasy Football draft is over. If you trade with another player though within your league, generally you need not worry about paying.

The standard league will let you make up a team of a) one or more than one quarterback; b) one or more running backs; c) At least one wide receiver; and d) at minimum one tight end; along with e) one or greater defense. You may play all your players at one time; or secondly, choose some players as starters and others as backups. The only players that win points for you are the ones that are considered active. The amount your team scores is different from one league to the next.

Prior to the Fantasy Football draft you'll want to rank the true NFL players before play. In order to do so use Fantasy Sports periodicals you pick up at your local bookseller or newsstand. There is also quite a bit of information free of charge on the Internet. If you believe you do not have enough time to research in order to participate in a draft, it is recommended you find a league that allows for an automated draft.

Bye weeks occur throughout the NFL season. The players within the NFL are able to take the week off. However for the Fantasy Football world play continues since player bye weeks are spread across positions. Hopefully you reviewed bye weeks prior to the draft in order to effect the latter scenario. Bye weeks are weeks where an NFL team has the week off in order to regroup.

Also take into consideration, the real players can suffer injuries: In this for-instance you lose in the way of production. However, again, since your team isn't taking

time off trades can be made as well as waiver wire actions in order to assure your roster remains favorably strong.

### #29. Pick'em Pools

No one disagrees that Fantasy Football has grown by leaps and bounds over the years. The Fantasy sport began as a way for the more intellectual sports enthusiast to manage his or her own Fantasy team. However, nowadays it is so much more. Those who simply enjoy watching football also participate in Fantasy Football during football season. However, not only is Fantasy Football now popular with individuals who enjoy watching the game, so are the Fantasy pools. The pools just seemed to come about as another way to appreciate the world of NFL sports.

Fans who watch the NFL games as well as the Fantasy Football fanatics are well aware that Fantasy Football is a huge industry. This is evidenced in the way the significant television networks place their own statistics on individual player's level of skills on ticker tapes in an attempt to attain the highest amount of viewers.

This is a smart move because a Fantasy Football participant who needs to know how well one of his or her starters is doing will appreciate the ticker tape showing his updated stats. Certainly, those wishing to win their league's Fantasy Football championship are going to continue watching the game currently playing, knowing they can count

on the tape to provide them with these important stats. However, some people believe that Fantasy Football places far too much focus on individual players and not enough on the game. This doesn't seem to deter Fantasy team owners from continuing to engage in the highly popular pastime.

There is more to Fantasy sports than managing your own team. There are also the Fantasy Football pools. The pools tend to be a nice compliment to Fantasy Football participation. There are all kinds of pools - played in different ways - including survivor pools, confidence pools, and pick 'em pools. The pick 'em pool is the oldest type of Fantasy pool. It is fairly basic and it has been revived quite recently. The person who watches NFL sports and has acquired a great deal of NFL knowledge will do well participating in the pick 'em pool. It involves the player selecting which team he or she believes will win. You may select the true winner; or choose the winner by means of a point-spread.

If you select the winning team, you are given one point per winner. The person who accumulates the greatest number of points accordant to selected winners is the pool's champion. A basic strategy is to select all the teams that are favored to win. However, this is the most likely strategy of everyone else in the pick 'em pool. In order to initiate some dissimilarity with respect to the choices of other pool participants you'll need to throw in some upsets.

The second way to participate in the pick 'em pool is by means of a point spread. With this variant of the pick 'em

pool you are going up against odds. You'll only receive points when you select the team which covered the spread. If you can manage over fifty percent accuracy with respect to your predictions, it is highly likely you stand a very good chance of winning.

Many fantasy websites are now provisioning things so that your pools are managed free of charge. Further, new options are now on the table. There are pick x pools wherein emphasis is placed on your best picks. Double plays are another alternative. Within this pool configuration, a certain number of games are given greater value, the basis being your assuredness of the final outcome. In summary, pick 'em pools are a good way to stay close to NFL action and remain updated as to what is happening with individual NFL players.

### #30. Planning Strategy for the 2013 & the Next Season

One key element in preparing for your Fantasy Football Draft or Auction is to be aware of what NFL teams your players are now playing. Prior to NFL football season, there are many players that get moved back and forth. It is important to understand how these moves may affect you and the way you play Fantasy Football. Why, you may ask, are team shifts so important? Well, quite frankly, it boils down to the other team members. If your quarterback has had a good play history associative with another player on the team, you may view a shift as possibly minimizing your quarterback's overall performance. The question to ask



is: Is this move to a new NFL franchise going to enhance or hinder my quarterback's level of performance?

With shifts as the one described, it is probably all right to put this guy on your roster, just don't make him your number one pick; there is just too much going on here that may affect results.

You must analyze shifts and trades prior to making your team selections by again reviewing the premium players who were shifted and how you imagine it may affect their ultimate play as illustrated above. If you believe your player as a result of the move and surrounding circumstance has become a slight liability, then by all means consider the move a grade down for him.

If you think the player going into the new set of circumstances presents a better future for you and him, then next to his name code the move an improvement. Look at each player one by one who've made moves and whom you are considering and think about how the move may be beneficial to you as a Fantasy owner.

Also, consider his level of skill relative to your league's scoring system. If he looks good as far as someone you need on your team, then secondly consider how his recent switch may prove advantageous to you as Fantasy team owner. It is not that you can't draft him if you believe the move affects his performance somewhat: it is just that you are better off with another player as your top pick as alluded to at the beginning of this page.

### #31. Possible Draft Day Mistakes

People engaging in Fantasy Football are wise to realize it is always essential to prepare by reading stats on-line and off-line. You must constantly keep your nose in front of ESPN or in a Fantasy Football periodical to stay up-to-date as to what is going on within the NFL. You don't want to look foolish by placing your money on someone who has been on the injured list for several weeks.

Here is where you need to be careful. Keep in mind, some of the sites that provide statistics do not always post regularly. In this regard, you are better off always reviewing stats from a trusted source. If you know someone who has been involved in Fantasy Football for quite some time, and preferably has won their league's playoffs on more than one occasion, then find out where they attain their stats.

People who truly enjoy Fantasy Football and like to win will be more than happy to share information with you. It is always encouraging to show a Fantasy Football rookie the ropes especially for the Fantasy Football fanatic. So if you can find such a person make certain you allow him or her to coach you towards your team's victories. Also there is a great deal of information to support by way of the Internet. This is encouraging since it provides the person wishing to engage in the game all kinds of angles and strategies to use with respect to the Draft and play in

general.

When you are new to Fantasy Football it is natural that you will be a bit intimidated when participating in the Draft. This is why it is best to prepare as much as is possible. Perhaps you could review some mistakes other Fantasy Football newbies have made and in this way you can keep yourself in check and not make the same errors. Then you'll realize why it is important you become as informed as is possible.

One example of a Draft day error is when a team owner drafts a player who has retired. Remember, you are selecting players from different teams within the NFL; not just players from your favorite NFL team. Before making selections from other teams, make certain you're knowledgeable of those team's current players. Even some people who follow the NFL games to some degree are apt to make this error in judgment. If you are already organized and have checked to assure a player is not on some injury list; it also makes sense to know who has retired from the NFL several seasons prior.

That brings us to the second mistake persons will make when participating in the Fantasy Football draft and that is drafting a player who is on the injury list (as alluded above). This mistake involves drafting a player that has been injured seriously: If you make this error it is just due to lack of preparation—many persons who now do well playing Fantasy Football have admitted they made this mistake during their first season.

Also, the idea behind Fantasy Football (once again) is to draft each of your players from different NFL teams. Even though some team members know this they will still draft for three different positions from the same NFL franchise. Whatever you do, it is advisable you never make this error: It might not be shouted from the rooftops or even acknowledged in polite conversation that you did this; however, most persons will be thinking: Wow, what is it with this person? (And "this person" means you). So whatever you do, make any other mistake if you must, since most newcomers have made them, but don't make the latter mistake. Proper preparation will save you a great deal of Draft day embarrassment.

If you wish to get on everyone's bad-side, make sure you take all the time available to you within the Draft's first round to make your selection. (Ugh! Not Good.) This is about the same as being the slow player everyone plays behind when participating in a game of Golf. This will not get you invited to Super Bowl parties either. This is why it is so important you prepare for your Fantasy Football draft during the pre-season. Fantasy Football is fun when you know what you are doing.

Another mark against you will be if you truly do come to the draft ruffled and totally unprepared. However, it has been stressed already throughout this article the importance of Draft day preparation. Do not be one of those guys or girls who end up sick on draft day from being three sheets to the wind the night before; and, wearing (on draft day) your grungiest weekend apparel. The draft needn't

intimidate you to this degree--that is if you properly prepare beforehand.

### #32. Practice Makes Perfect

There are three key components to winning at Fantasy Football and they are a) Research with regard to player rankings and levels of performance; b) Keeping apprised of what is happening within the National Football League; and c) Participating in Mock drafts prior to your Fantasy Draft. In using the mock draft, the Fantasy owner can better prepare him or herself for the next season's Fantasy draft.

But if you do your homework with respect to players and rankings and keep up with NFL events why is the Mock fantasy draft so essential? There are several reasons why the draft is important. When you start performing research on the Internet with respect to player rankings, you are going to find variance as to the information. Once you compile research as well as put together your own rankings sheet, a mock draft will allow you to test things out as far as your observations and assumptions. After participating in several of these drafts you are able to see where modifications need to be made.

So where do you participate in mock drafts? A Fantasy Football team manager will find a good many Fantasy Football sites where participation in mock drafts is possible. Once you become involved in Fantasy Football mock drafts, you'll

naturally find sites that end up being your favorites. For example, some sites use awesome automated technology as far as the mock draft scenario. Those who have not yet participated in a mock draft, and have performed their prerequisite homework; but need to polish their player ranking profiles and numbers should give mock drafts a chance. The fact that the mock draft allows you to practice is the key to your success when it comes time to take part in the real Fantasy Football draft hosted by your league.

The best way to prepare for a mock draft is to: a) First, start reviewing player's rankings; b) Turn on your TV set and begin watching the different games with respect to NFL sports; c) Review the NFL website and d) Put together your own Players' rankings sheets. After you feel fairly confident you've attained some knowledge by the preceding means, go on-line and review sites where mock drafts are held. Get a sense of what you may expect from a mock draft and be ready to participate. In order to become good at the game you need to prepare and participate. Once you have these two elements down, it is very likely you'll be the winner of your Fantasy Football league some day.

### #33. Preparing for the Draft

The key to winning in Fantasy Football is properly preparing for your league's draft. It is possible to make modifications using the waiver wire later on or by trading; however, in order to come out the winner keep draft day error free. The reason you want to do so is because mistakes you

make during the draft will continue to haunt you until end-of-season. The following article will provide pointers on how to get ready for your Fantasy Football league's draft.

The best thing to do in order to prepare for draft day is to visit your favorite book retailer. Find a copy of one of several Fantasy Football guides. Generally, the guide will provide statistics for several of the preceding football seasons. The statistics will cover the primary players however, not the rookies. Defensive statistics will also be listed. One item you'll find most useful within this type of guide is a Fantasy Football Mock Draft. The Mock Draft is designed to show you what you may anticipate during the upcoming season.

Prior to grabbing a Fantasy Football guide it is advised you keep informed of reports and news regarding NFL franchises and players throughout the year. This means you must stay updated with respect to information during the offseason and prior to the start of the NFL football season. It is particularly important you stay current with all the news during the actual NFL football season.

Most people who truly enjoy participating in Fantasy Football leagues recommend ESPN in order to stay current with regard to the NFL. Also you can visit the National Football League site and receive current data. You'll want to do this because if your draft day selection is actually laid up when you choose him, you've already shot yourself in the foot. Do your homework and don't embarrass yourself by drafting someone who is on the injury list.

Another suggestion is to watch NFL preseason games. In so doing, you may be able to recognize draft day talent early on. Here you might notice a lesser-tiered athlete performing at an optimum level. Keeping yourself up on the sport is a key ingredient to Fantasy Football draft day success.

Once you feel confident in your knowledge of NFL football with regard to stats, you'll want to review your league's roster setup. Also become acquainted with the league's point system. This and the players you choose will determine whether you win or lose. Knowledge is power and certainly true when participating in Fantasy Football.

#### #34. Primary Ingredients of a Successful Draft

After reading the advice given on how to win at Fantasy Football you may think that a great deal has been stated about pulling off a successful draft. This is due to the fact the draft is the base for successful Fantasy Football play. If you mess up here it is difficult - if not impossible - to recover. However, if you prepare well and know what you are doing in this area, you may very well end up in your league's playoffs. The following ingredients about the draft make up just the right recipe for possible Fantasy Football success.

First it is important to review the rulebook of your league.



This is significant and relative to the Fantasy Football players you select. For example, within certain league configurations points are awarded more readily for RBs that exhibit certain levels of performance; over the wide receiver positions. In other leagues the quarterback will earn six points for a touchdown that is passed. Naturally in the latter example the quarterback within the league - as far as points, is highly valued. The league's scoring system should be reviewed as well as player rankings.

Secondly, when you sign up for Fantasy Football you are required to analyze your players' rankings. You'll need to forget about making decisions based on emotion. In other words, you can't draft your players from your favorite teams, unless those players' rankings correspond with your league's scoring system. If you forget to do this, re-read the preceding paragraph.

Third, always keep a check as to player injuries. Certainly, once you involve yourself in your Fantasy Football draft you don't want to waste your time with a player who is benched or on the injury list.

Fourth, in order to affect good-decisions with respect to your Fantasy Football draft you should attain good projections. Locate reliable resources and stick with them. One good resource is the NFL site.

Fifth, stay observant during your Fantasy Football draft as to what players the opposing teams have on their respective rosters.

Sixth, analyze players you are considering who are ranked side-by-side by answering the following questions: Has either player been on the injury list a number of times? Does one of the players historically seem to gain momentum toward the end of the NFL season? Which player plays on the winning team most often? Thinking in this fashion will help you reach your decision.

Seventh, take a look at the Bye week. Since you are drafting from across the board, you definitely do not want to make the error of drafting several players with identical bye weeks. This may cost you since you may lose a highly skilled player as a result of not noticing his week off.

Eighth, draft your kicker position during the final round of your Fantasy Football draft. It is best to draft the Defense during the next to last round. This is due to the fact the positions can be changed out weekly and are difficult performance predictions during preseason. There is generally a good premium Defense on the wire after the first week of play.

Ninth, do not overvalue the rookies or your sleepers. Certainly a good rookie can generate a certain amount of enthusiasm; however don't allow it to affect your judgment. You might consider a good rookie RB; however that is about it. Also if you believe you have found a sleeper then wait for a round: If he is still available then he is the real deal.

### #35. Public Leagues Make Fantasy Football Accessible

Those who enjoy the game of Fantasy Football not only like the process of the game including: a) Pre-draft day preparation; b) the Fantasy Football day draft; c) Watching the NFL games; and d) the camaraderie of playing the game, but also the cash prize presented to the winner. The individuals who keep coming back to Fantasy Football every football season remain motivated by that nice cash reward.

In order to have the best shot at the cash prize find a site where various public Fantasy leagues may be accessed. Look for a Fantasy site that takes care to maintain high standards and is well-thought of within the industry. For example, there are Fantasy Football sites with various configurations as to leagues. This is helpful in that you have options in which to select in order to play Fantasy Football the way you'd like to play it. Terms, if you are a newbie, as far as different leagues include head-to-head type of leagues and total points leagues. There are other league configurations offered at other sites and the rules are pertinent to the style of league and the person who runs the league. Some head-to-head leagues may have as many as fourteen teams.

When playing on a public Fantasy Football league generally the cash rewards go to the champion of the league as well as the second place-getter. The cash reward is gathered by means of team entry fees. In other words, the cash prize

is the total amount of the individual participation fees. You could look at your entry fee as an investment of sorts. If you do your homework on rankings and players as well as goings-on within the NFL; participate in mock drafts to bring everything together, you have a good chance of attaining a first or second place finish. However, your entry fee doesn't do you a whole lot of good if you don't do your research and pay attention. This is true with any investment.

To get started go where you have the best chance of learning the game and the process of Fantasy Football. Sites offering public leagues with various configurations make it possible for you to have a good opportunity of finding the type of league that best fits your style; as well as easily engaging in the game. So why not start looking around today for a league where you'll feel comfortable participating in the sport?

### #36. Select your Players Wisely

The main rule of thumb in constructing a Fantasy Football lineup is to employ diligent research. This is essential due to the fact your Fantasy land picks will determine how well your team ranks during the season. That said, this is easier said than done. The persons that win at Fantasy Football take months reviewing their selections with regard to the Fantasy Football draft.

The idea is if you do not attain the correct players within your lineup, your season isn't probably going to look too rosy. However, the upside is you never know what might happen in Fantasy Football because even the best of NFL players hit the injury list. The person who scoops the premium players up at the draft aren't necessarily guaranteed the league's championship; there are just too many factors to consider. Additionally, in Fantasy Football land you'll want strong coverage as far as your backups. This is necessary in case your premium players are benched due to injury.

Certainly every individual has a different thought process during the Fantasy Football draft. Some choose the receivers initially and others will pick the quarterback or running backs as first picks. The determining factor about this type of decision-making is revealed at the playoffs. And let's face it: all that is really important is the person who comes out the winner. In order to choose wisely perform a search online and find out what the Fantasy Football experts suggest as far as the best draft picks. Naturally, all the experts will concur about the value of certain premium players. The premium guy is whom you'll surround with the remainder of your Fantasy Football team.

The most difficult aspect is locating the players who are not that well-known but are ready to break out of their anonymity. This makes it doubly important for you to participate in mock drafts and observe what is going on within the training camps to determine the possible sleepers. That said, don't just assume because a younger player appears somewhat talented he is going to become a star performer. Again, much is reliant on research and

observation, so keep your eyes open.

Another aspect of Fantasy Football is trading and adding free agents from the wire. It is important to learn to trade as this keeps momentum high. Trades can revitalize your Fantasy Football team. To competitively participate in Fantasy Football you will need to gain skill in making trades with other members of your Fantasy land league. Understanding who to trade and when the time is right is fundamentally important. If you can do this well, in addition to making the right picks during the draft, you stand a very good chance of entering your league's playoffs and possibly coming in first place.

### #37. Should You Worry about Collusion?

Many league commissioners in the land of Fantasy Football wonder if they should be concerned about collusion. For those readers who have not heard of the term, collusion occurs when two separate teams work in coordination in order to give one team the advantage in winning the league championship. This type of arrangement can happen when one team is doing exceptionally well and another team is faring badly. What goes on is under-the-table scheming or trades that aren't quite even-Steven.

In any event, this type of alliance is not at all fair to the other league members. This isn't something that occurs on a frequent basis; however, it has been known to happen.

In this light, it is best if you are a Fantasy commissioner to make certain you have measures in place in order to prevent it. That said, there is no way you can completely eliminate the possibility that collusion may occur; you can only reduce the possibility. Here are some ways to prevent collusion from occurring.

First off, it is probably best to configure your league as a Keeper league. When employing this strategy you have the advantage of keeping a few of the positions you've drafted in the past - that is if you follow a certain set of rules.

Second, it is advisable to provide team members with incentives such as prizes for an impressive number of points. For example, you can divvy up the initial entry fees in the way of a) weekly cash awards for first through third place. The rest of the prize money can go towards the end of the year cash purse. In this light, each league team has the opportunity of winning a cash prize weekly. This strategy also provides an incentive for people to retain their best players with the notion that somewhere down the road they'll be awarded the weekly incentive.

The third recommendation is to assess a fee when a trade is affected. This doesn't infer the cost of the trade be anything substantial: it is just a measure you might employ in order that decisions in this area are well thought out before action is taken. A small amount such as one or two dollars is appropriate. Escrow this small trade fee and apply it to a special event such as your league's playoff festivities.

If you think collusion is a strong possibility, particularly between two certain teams you might set up some sort of league agency or committee. For example, put together your group with respect to collusion prevention during preseason, comprised of several team managers. The committee makes the decision if a trade does not meet the standards of the league. This is affective due to the fact one individual is not held accountable as far as making judgments with regard to ethical trades. Also, teams cannot be contrary toward one certain person when a group makes the final determination as to the validity of the trade respective of league rules.

Establish a trading schedule and set a date by when trades must be cut off. It is best to place your trade cutoff date somewhere during weeks seven and nine of the football season. Collusive trades do not occur frequently; however, in order to keep things on the up-and-up administering the above recommendations will keep the playing field more equitable and everyone on your league happy.

### #38. The Beginnings Of Fantasy Football

Many persons engaged in Fantasy Football like it so well they may ask the question: How did it come about? This is a good question because over the years the game has gained enormous popularity. You may be surprised to know the initiation of the Fantasy sports idea came by way of Golf.



A very inventive Wilfred Winkenbach came up with the idea of Fantasy golf. (Winkenbach was partial owner of the Oakland Raiders football team at the time.) The Fantasy golf idea was born during the late portion of the 50s. Afterwards, Winkenbach came up with the idea of Fantasy baseball. Persons sometimes laugh at the notion that Winkenbach devised Fantasy golf first, baseball second and then football in that order: particularly since Winkenbach was part owner of a major football team.

The idea of Fantasy Football was born one rainy October night during the sixties. Winkenbach talked over the idea of the Fantasy sport with the public relations man for the Raiders Bill Tunnell, as well as Scotty Stirling, sports writer for the Oakland Tribune. The details of Fantasy Football were actually worked out in a hotel in Manhattan in 1962 while the Oakland Raiders were traveling.

During the initial birth, the concept was devised with a league having a composition of eight teams. The men also put together a scoring system different than what Fantasy Football players may be accustomed to today. For example, twenty-five points were awarded for a touchdown reception; passing touchdown or field goal. Ten points were granted for an extra point made; and an enormous two-hundred points were given for a punt, kick-off, or a pick six. You can see that the system of scoring has changed from the original scoring system put together by Winkenbach and his associates. Nowadays leagues have devised their own systems of scoring. The scoring systems provide team members fewer points than the original.

Once back in Oakland, Winkenbach, Tunnell, and Stirling went to the sports editor of the Tribune, George Ross with the Fantasy Football concept. It was during this meeting they decided it was necessary to come up with a certain set of rules. The rules which were referred to by the acronym GOPPPL were subsequently adopted in 1963. The acronym stood for: Greater Oakland Professional Pigskin Prognosticators League. For those of you unfamiliar with the term prognosticator this is an individual who renders a prediction.

Within the GOPPPL requirements there were 3 standards that a player of Fantasy Football needed to meet before league participation could be considered. The three requirements included: a) The Fantasy Football owner/manager needed to be affiliated with an American Football League professional team; b) He or she needed to have a professional affiliation to professional football by way of journalism; and c) Lastly, the manager needed to have bought or sold a minimum of 10 tickets for the 63 season of Oakland Raider's Football.

During 1968 the Kings X Sports Bar opened its doors in Oakland as well as to Fantasy Football participants. Here an organized Fantasy Football draft was held. The draft was conducted through the efforts of Andrew Mousalimas. Afterwards, Fantasy Football grew steadily throughout the decade of the 70s and forward. Although, the Fantasy game did not create an epidemic of Fantasy Football fanatics, the amount of popularity it did achieve early on was really quite unanticipated. The evolution of Fantasy Football showed great promise.

Today the idea of the game is to join a league. Generally an entry fee is charged. Or you may join a league for free; and other fees (in order to generate the cash prize awarded to the winning team participant at end of season) are accrued by other means. Further, a Fantasy draft or auction is held in order to draft a Fantasy team. The Fantasy Football team is comprised of members from various NFL teams, and players must each come from a different NFL franchise. The draft is considered the most important component of Fantasy Football: It is the base that gives the Fantasy Football manager a shot at winning the playoffs. Although the league is a fantasy league, the team's roster is based on the stats of real NFL football players.

Today, Fantasy Football has grown by leaps and bounds due to the fact statistics can be made readily available by means of the Internet. As well, Fantasy Football can be easily played over the virtual venue. If you like sports and enjoy watching NFL football then you may enjoy Fantasy Football.

### #39. The Key to Winning is Understanding

Those who engage in the game of Fantasy Football will find they gain a great deal more enjoyment out of it by fully learning every aspect of the game. If you review sites and articles, you'll find the players who have been involved for awhile and have grown up around it, know that the way to make it fun is to follow the stats. Acquire knowledge

with respect to a good majority of the NFL teams and their respective players. Pretty soon you will start to see trends with respect to player performance. Following are some tips to get you headed in the right direction.

The first order of business is to do your research with respect to your Fantasy Football draft as you head into football season. What you'll need to do is rank your primary picks or selections and then rank your alternative choices. Perform this task for at minimum the first eight rounds of the Draft.

Play it cool and you'll be rewarded. Keep this principle in mind; never be so ill at ease or disorganized that you are left shuffling about nervously attempting to make a choice. Additionally, know your league rules backwards and how they affect decision-making as far as player selection.

If you are going to take risks do so near the end of the Fantasy Football Draft certainly not at the start. Work on assembling a reliable team during the early selection phase. Once at the mid portion of the Draft you'll want to look at high end athletes that may have lost some of their initial crowd enthusiasm but are still effective players. Many of these NFL football players still have what it takes to make great plays and perform adequately regardless of what the crowd thinks of them.

You'll always need to stay up-to-date as far as the waiver wire. It is particularly important you do so during the

first month of the NFL season. Interestingly, during each season a few athletes who weren't expected to perform all that well become top players. If you keep a watch on the waiver wire, you may cleverly find a few of these diamonds in the rough who end up shining brightly during football season.

#### #40. Two Components of the Team

In order to become successful in the creation of your Fantasy Football team it is important to realize when structuring it that there are two very important steps. The first step is in reviewing player stats and rankings from various teams within the NFL. The second component in the successful creation of a Fantasy Football team is to perform a mock draft. Enough can't be said about proper preparation before engaging in your league's true Fantasy draft; so make certain you use the mock draft as a tool in order to properly ready yourself.

The rule of thumb with respect to rankings is simple; the better your player ranks the better is your Fantasy Football team. Maybe this sounds too basic; however, it is part of the formula to winning your league's championship. Also player rankings are very accessible. You may attain them from a great many off-line and online sources. You are not going to have a tough time locating rankings, so inability to attain the information as to player performance cannot be used as an excuse. Also, to make matters more interesting, it is reasonable to refer to the information

provided by sports analysts with regard to rankings; and perform a bit of modification on your own. You'll want to customize rankings, so to speak, to fit with the Fantasy Football team you wish to create. In fact, various individuals possess a difference of opinion as to where a player belongs as far as rankings: so refer to more than one source and put together your own rankings sheet.

Next participate in a mock draft. Have your player's ranking sheet available. You can initiate the mock draft within your particular league. Also perform as many mock drafts as possible. This is an excellent way to prepare for the real deal. Plus, many of the other participants of the mock draft will not have a player's ranking list compiled. They more than likely will make reference to the rankings that are provided on the website where the mock draft is located.

The persons who are less prepared will also show up at the real Fantasy Football draft and select someone who has been injured for the last two weeks. Keep in the back of your mind, the more mock drafts you involve yourself the better you will become at it. You are at a distinct advantage if you have an accurate rankings sheet. Also, the mock drafts will help you realize what rounds certain players are being selected. In this way, you won't be going in cold when the regular Fantasy Football draft comes around.

The recommendation is to wait it out until particular rounds of the draft to select players. The waiting period must be pertinent to your observation(s) as to when players were chosen during prior mock drafts.

Lastly, a special tip is to keep an eye on the draft board. Let's say you have ranked a player as a third round selection: however, you notice there are higher ranked athletes still available. You remember from your mock draft, the third round player you wish to draft hasn't been chosen until later rounds. You can, in this regard, adjust your strategy and go ahead and select the top-tier player whom you believe is not going to still be on the board for an extra round. You can pick up the player you had intended on selecting this particular round during another round. Once again, you've been able to make the decision based on what has historically occurred during the mock drafts.

#### #41. Various Types of Leagues

People interested in Fantasy Football are wise to review various league configurations before signing up. This is essential because each league offers a different set of rules and circumstances. It is important to find the league that best fits your preferences as far as points systems and general regulations. Here is some more information regarding various types of leagues.

Probably the most popular leagues are the basic draft type leagues. The standard league will generally conduct a snake style draft. The starting lineup is chosen by each team's manager week by week. The starting lineup is determined by the amount of players allowed per position. There are two kinds of draft leagues. There is the Total

Points style league and the Head-to-Head league. When you sign up for the Head-to-Head league each team within the league opposes a new team each week. The team that earns the majority of points is naturally the winner. Also teams with the best overall record by end of season participate in league playoffs. The Total Points-style league does not keep track of losses or wins. Rather the points are continually accrued. The league standings are based in accord to the total points accumulated by each team. The teams ending up with the greatest number of points engage in the playoffs.

The league that holds an auction rather than standard draft may be configured as a Head-to-Head league or Total Points-style league. The auction draft league is comprised of team managers who have a pre-established level of cash in order that each may bid in order to fill up their rosters.

A Dynasty league is configured in such a way where players are kept on the same roster from season to season. This occurs until which time the player is traded or dropped. The Keeper style league is a combination of some of the attributes of the Dynasty league and the Standard Draft league. Within the Keeper configuration, the draft is held prior to the NFL season. Further, keeper teams are able to keep (as the name suggests) a certain number of their players from the preceding season.

The IDP league uses separate defense players and not units. The team within the IDP league is slightly more difficult to establish due to the fact more analysis is necessary in



fulfillment of the remaining positions. The survivor league style is not concerned about draft style. It generally uses almost any type of draft; however is more than likely going to hold a standard draft or auction event. As the name suggests, the team that scored the lowest points for the week is taken out of the competition.

#### #42. What if You Make Mistakes?

Much of the advice out there regarding the Fantasy Football draft is all about preparation. Prepare properly and you won't embarrass yourself; prepare well and you'll go into the draft with a great deal more confidence. And even though you're in fantasy land with respect to the draft, it is still the ultimate challenge in establishing a team that will take you to your league's championship. Although preparation is still important, a good many team managers being newbies to the game are going to make some blunders. You must still do your homework regardless of the outcome. At least, if you blunder with respect to the draft, it isn't as if you didn't put your best foot forward. So the advice here isn't so much how to avoid mistakes at the draft, it is about how to handle them. So long as you've tried your best no one can really fault you for making a few errors, especially if you are a newbie to Fantasy Football.

Here is another reality check. You probably didn't totally mess up. It's reasonable to assume you attained some players you wanted, messed a few other selections, and maybe didn't do as well as you had hoped. Now is the time to realize

- you have twelve to fourteen glorious weeks to correct the foul ups. It's true - you have time to correct any errors you believe you made in your Fantasy Football draft day selection.

The first course of action is to look at everything from an objective standpoint. If you did your homework as far as preparation, slow down and concentrate. Be realistic and look at what you did right; and then think about what you did wrong. For example if you have too many of certain positions check your league's board. Determine what the other team managers need. You'll see that not all of them came up with a perfect lineup either so just march up to the other team owner and offer help with respect to team rosters. Secondly, analyze your bye weeks. Your bye weeks should be spread out evenly for each position.

Lastly review the schedule for your NFL players during your Fantasy Football league's playoffs. For example, certain teams may have a difficult schedule for quarterbacks during the ending weeks of the season. Secondly, certain team positions may be fortunate to have a relatively easy schedule during weeks fourteen through seventeen as well as during playoffs. This means a player in the latter scenario may start looking better and better to you as the football season progresses.

Just to play it safe, you might want to "chill" and not make any moves with respect to your Fantasy Football team for about two to three weeks after the Fantasy draft. That said, you don't want to take too long to make a move either. However, if you are in doubt what to do it is best not to

make a rush judgment until you have thought everything through thoroughly. One thing you should do as a Fantasy Football newbie is to reward yourself for preparing and making it through your first Fantasy Football Draft. Regardless of the blunders, it is still a game about managing, and you have time to learn from those mistakes.

### #43. What is a Cheat Sheet?

The Fantasy Football Cheat Sheet by definition is basically a system that ranks the players. It may just show player rankings or it may contain some additional information about each individual player. The only way the cheat sheet is going to be the least bit useful to you is if you are certain the persons who have compiled it are knowledgeable.

One thing you'll need to watch out for is how often the websites you visit with respect to player statistics update their information. Some sites will update their stats on a weekly basis and others will update their statistics monthly. If they are updating monthly there may be persons listed who have been injured or sitting on the bench that are ranked where they may have been a couple weeks prior. If you are using rankings that are a month old, you might not do so well when it comes to your fantasy draft. If you are going to rely on the Fantasy Football cheat sheet, it is highly advised that you attain your information from a cheat sheet that is updated frequently.

Also, it is wise to make certain you have confidence in the person who puts together the information. You want someone compiling your cheat sheet who has been the primary player or member in his or her league(s). This type of individual will have a good handle on what is going on.

Don't rely on cheat sheets where it is just part of someone's job description to prepare it. Find a cheat sheet where the individual is very interested in being a winner and has been a winner playing Fantasy Football. The part of the strategy where you don't want to lose your edge is when you go to draft your players. If you rely on the wrong cheat sheet you are going to have a lineup that is less than solid. This may make all the difference whether you win coveted first place or come in second.

In summary, a cheat sheet is basically a player ranking sheet. It is okay to read projections; however, the best way to proceed is to attain up-to-date rankings and base your draft choices on solid facts. Analyze a cheat sheet with reliable information; stay apprised of the games and what is going on with the players, and you have a good shot of coming in number one.

#### #44. When to Select your Running Backs and Wide Receivers

People who have had their heads buried in the Fantasy Football periodicals year-after-year have read a multitude of articles about taking the opposite approach when

drafting their two wide receivers during the initial and second rounds. Here are some tips about the regular Fantasy Football scoring system and when it is best to pick your running backs and wide receivers.

The time to draft your team's best players is during the first and second rounds of the Fantasy Football draft. Also, it is possible to receive some luck and draft a good player within the third and fourth rounds of the draft. However, realistically, it is going to be near impossible for you to attain a top performer after your draft's fourth round. Naturally there is always the odd exception, but don't count on them.

The concept here is to keep in mind during the initial and second round of your Fantasy Football draft is when you need your best players. The players you select during the first two rounds must allow your team to stand out from the other packs. In other words, your goal is to draft the players who outperform the other players with respect to scoring and with the highest (possible) percentage.

For example, the weekly average for the NFL's top running back is generally around twenty points whereas the tenth position guy receives an average of twelve points. Eight points is going to make a great deal of difference when it comes to accumulating points for your Fantasy Football team. The same can be said about the wide receiver position; If the average score for the best wide receiver is fifteen and the tenth best receives twelve, you receive three points weekly by having the better player.

Also keep in mind when preparing for Fantasy Football drafts; it is more difficult to project what wide receivers will do as far as performance and points than running backs. It is best in this regard to draft wide receivers outside of the first three rounds of your draft.

It may be possible to draft some good running backs after the third round regardless if their performances are easier to predict than the wide receivers. However, many good running back performers are available during the first round. The easier it is to predict levels of performance, the more confident you'll become in drafting certain players within the first round.

In standard English, if you need to choose between the running back and wide receiver(s) during your first round draft selections: stick with the reliable running back. He isn't nearly as available during the third and fourth rounds. Also you'll be able to (always) find some wide receivers that are relative good performers during the later rounds. Such will not be the case with the more exceptional running backs.

#### #45. Why Advice can be Helpful

People who play Fantasy Football develop a preoccupation with the sport. Many participants testify once they start engaging in the game, it is difficult to break away. Many

spouses of Fantasy players will agree that this is true. Once the significant other is tuned into his or her Fantasy world of Football there is no use in bringing him or her back down to earth—for the time being. What keeps fans of Fantasy land so loyal? In one word; fun! It is essentially one of the most enjoyable pastimes going.

The advice here is if you want to truly make the sport an enjoyable experience, you'll want to put all your efforts in engaging in Fantasy Football. You'll find in the long run it will be well worth it. You may wish to start with free Fantasy Football sites; and then as you gain knowledge and experience graduate to sites where entry fees are charged and you can win cash prizes. The reason Fantasy Football is so popular is due to the fact it allows you to put together a Fantasy team comprised of different players from various NFL franchises. This is truly a great deal of fun since you can assemble persons whose skills you find correspond well with your league's scoring system; and many from your favorite NFL teams.

One good piece of advice with respect to Fantasy Football is to check the bye week. This is the week on the NFL calendar wherein teams take a rest from the sport. Since you are drafting from various NFL teams, you don't want several of your premium players scheduled for the same bye week—this can devastate your points for that week. It is also significant that your starting lineup players do not have the same bye week as your backups. Can you imagine what a fiasco this would cause? The primary reason you have backups is to cover the bye week. It doesn't make much sense to select a backup who has the same bye week as the person being covered in your starting lineup. Just check the

schedule before proceeding with this decision.

Once you've decided you are in you will need to select a league where you may participate or set up your own league. However, it isn't preferable you begin a league when you are new or just starting out. There is just far too much information to absorb.

When Fantasy Leagues are formulated, generally the persons who end up as team managers within the league know each other. Other individuals find it more comfortable to join a league on the Internet where they don't know the other participants. Regardless, you'll find competitive spirit regardless of which way you choose to go as to league participation.

There is a great deal of information regarding the sport on the Internet in the way of helpful advice. This is one sport where a little advice can go a long way; and where advice that is useful never receives a cold shoulder.

### Resources

Fantasy Football - Unleash Greatness (recommended) :

Go to: <http://tinyurl.com/n66t3e3>



**Good Luck!**

**Thank You,**

**Terry Clark**











