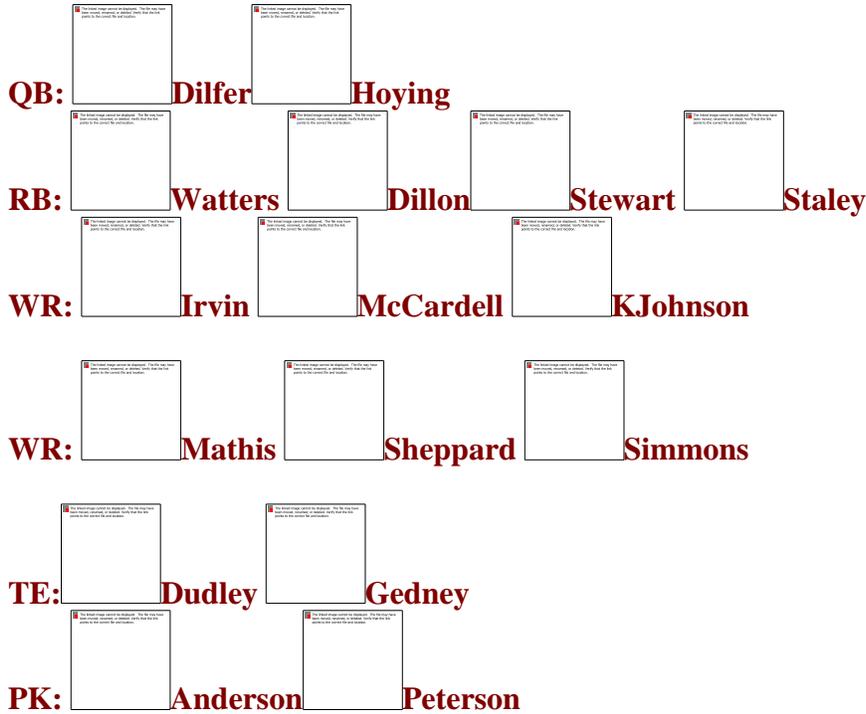


The Mind Behind the Decisions

Chris Dolfi is the mind behind the Dolf Fins.
 This is his 1998 Analysis Draft team and the reasoning for the selections made.



Pick	Player	NFL	Analysis
1.11	RB Rickey Watters		<p>When I saw Eddie George still on the board with only one team left to pick before my selection, I was salivating at the chance of picking up the young workhorse. Unfortunately, Harris & Bryant beat me to the punch. I considered taking a top flight QB (like Brunell) with my first pick, but good RB's are already becoming scarce in this draft, and I wasn't going to be left out in the cold. In looking over the remaining RB's on the board, I felt Ricky Watters had the most to offer.</p> <p>Watters has had 6 fine NFL (and fantasy) seasons, and this year should be his 7th. Watters was used sparingly at times in Philadelphia last season, but still managed to amass 1500 all-purpose yards (over 1100 rushing). His TD total was down (7 in 1997), but that was behind an Eagles offensive line was truly "offensive". With Ricky's trade to Seattle he joins a team that was #1 in the NFL in passing offense, and Watters fits in well with his ability to get open out of the backfield. Seattle was about the middle of the pack in rushing offense, but Watters is definitely an upgrade to their running game. Watters will have his share of tough games, having to see Denver and KC's run defenses twice each during the season, but he</p>

			<p>should feel better going against two bad run defenses in Oakland and San Diego for four of his games.</p> <p>Do I think Watters will lead the league in rushing or beat out the likes of Barry Sanders or Terrell Davis? No. But I do think Watters will certainly do no worse than last year (1110 yds. rushing, 440 yds. receiving, 7 TDs) and is likely to produce even bigger numbers with the improved situation around him.</p>
2.02	RB Corey Dillon		<p>I wanted to pick a RB with this selection. It has nothing to do with being locked into picking two RBs (ala "Stud Running Back" theory) with my first 2, it has do with the fact that I felt the RB pool is thin this year. By thin I don't necessarily mean there won't be a bunch of good fantasy RBs, there is just too much uncertainty in many team's RB situations for my liking. With that said I looked at available RBs. My choices: Dillon, Kaufman, R. Smith, A. Smith, etc.</p> <p>I'm not sold on Kaufman as a real fantasy scorer, the Oakland O was erratic last season and they spent too much time behind in games to really run up any fantasy rushing numbers. Robert Smith is just too injury prone to make him my #2 man, he would be a great pick in a later round, but not the 2nd - too risky. Antowain Smith should have better numbers, but Thurman may still steal some carries. And with a new QB in Buffalo and an older receiving corps, teams may key on Antowain more than he has seen in the past.</p> <p>So I looked at Corey Dillon. Sure he had a ton of yards in 2 games or so that boosted his total. Sure he only has 1/2 season of experience under his belt. Sure he has to deal with Blake being the starting QB instead of Boomer, who he was so successful under. However, if he only does 1/2 as good as last season, he'll still be on par with the likes of Kaufman and R. Smith. But Dillon's upside is in the range of about 12 TDs or so. I don't know if he's likely to achieve those numbers, but Kaufman and Smith have never seen those numbers in their careers either. Toss in the fact that Cincy spent 3 of its first four draft picks (2 of which were 1st rounders) on LBs to strengthen their porous D, and 5 of their first total 6 picks overall going to strengthening their D, and Cincy is less likely to have to chuck the ball as much and should be able to balance their offense more in 1998.</p> <p>All this lead me to select Dillon with the 2.02 pick. Higher than I would have liked, but all things considered he doesn't seem much more of a risk than R. Smith or Kaufman and Dillon's upside was just too good to pass up.</p>
3.11	TE Rickey Dudley		<p>With one of the last selections in the 3rd round, I knew it would be some time before I selected again. I knew that all of the WRs that were at the top of my list were likely to be gone by this point, so I had settled on grabbing the player that I had thought had the most value relative to others at his position - Ben Coates. Greg Kellogg traded up to the pick just prior to mine and stole ol' Coates right out from under me, leaving me searching for a player to fill the void.</p> <p>I still feel that of the WRs left on the board none are head and shoulders above the rest, the same could also be said of the remaining QBs. (I had hoped to get McNair at 4.02, but that's not going to happen either.) My</p>

			<p>RBs are set, so I decide to grab one of the top TEs.</p> <p>Ordinarily, the top 2 TEs are Coates and Sharpe, so with Coates taken the logical choice would be Sharpe. However, with the Elway situation still up in the air I was not anxious to roll the dice on Sharpe. I am a "play it safe" type owner and the thought of Bubby Brister throwing to Sharpe was just too much for me to stomach. So I chose the next best TE in the bunch... Rickey Dudley.</p> <p>"WHAT !!?" I can hear the nay sayers now. Some will criticize me for not grabbing the 3rd of the "Big 3", Wesley Walls with this selection. Walls is a fine player, but the lack of a real receiving threat and a suspect QB situation in Carolina have dethrone Walls from my personal "Big 3". Make room for the newest member of the "Big 3", Rickey Dudley.</p> <p>Dudley had a terrible rookie season with Oakland where he was affectionately known as Ricky "Hands of Stone". But 1997 was a complete turnaround for the young, fast TE out of Ohio St. Dudley showed he has the stuff to become one of the premier fantasy TEs, and I expect a similar performance from him in 1998. The addition of new head coach John Gruden should also bode well for Dudley. Gruden tried to incorporate the TE as a sizable piece of Philadelphia's offense when he was their Offensive Coordinator, unfortunately he didn't have any talent at the position. He won't have that problem with Dudley.</p>
4.02	WR Michael Irvin		<p>.Ooops. After seeing John Hansen's 2 back-to-back picks, I realize now that I made a mistake. I thought John likely to take a RB with one pick and one of the top TEs with his other pick. I decided to grab the TE I wanted at 3.11 and thought I could get the WR I wanted, Jimmy Smith, with the 4.02 selection. I goofed. Time to regroup and grab the next best WR left on the board. (A serviceable QB will still be available in the later rounds, so I'm putting off the QB need for now.)</p> <p>I chose a player that, frankly, I hate - Michael Irvin. As an Eagles fan and season ticket holder, I have had to put up with Irvin and his antics twice a year for the last decade. His 5 game suspension in 1996 was a source of great mirth to almost all of my friends as well as myself. Why Irvin then? Simple, he's that damn good.</p> <p>With the top WRs off the board, I can't afford to have my #1 WR not produce. By selecting Irvin, I'm eliminating that possibility. Irvin has been a model of consistency second only to Herman Moore over the last 10 years. Since 1991, his first year as a full-time starter, Irvin has failed to attain 1000+ yards only once - in 1996 when he missed 5 games due to a suspension, when he still managed to put up 962 yards receiving. Over that same span he averages 7 TDs per year, and almost 8 TDs a year if you throw out the 1996 suspension season.</p> <p>Many critics of Irvin have said that the only reason he was successful was that opposing defenses concentrated on stopping Emmitt Smith and the run, leaving Irvin free to catch more passes. In 1997 Irvin proved that theory wrong. Emmitt and the running game were practically non-existent and Irvin stepped up to the challenge with almost 1200 yards and 9 TDs. The Cowboys have stated that they would like to open up their offense</p>

			<p>and pass ! the ball more, which should mean more looks for Irvin in 1998. Although Irvin might not have the upside of a pick like Issac Bruce or Rob Moore, he doesn't have the risk of those two guys either.</p>
TRADE	.		<p>Wrath! OL'eary 5.08 (current) + 8.05 for Dolf Fins Dolfi 5.11 + 7.11</p> <p>I had been trying like mad to trade up to get the WR that I desired. I tried to work a deal out with Scott McClory for his 5.06 pick, but my trade offer was not accepted. Scott felt he wanted to grab the WR he desired, so I held my breath and breathed a sigh of relief when he selected Marvin Harrison.</p> <p>Next, I tried to swing a deal with Duane Cahill for his 5.07 spot - but was unable to pull the trigger on that deal. Duane wanted to grab a WR that he felt would not be there for him at my 5.11 spot, so he turned me down. I again breathed a sign of relief as Andre Rison was selected.</p> <p>With Shannon O'Leary having his QB, TE, and 2 RBs selected, he would have certainly selected a WR with this pick. In addition, Team Kneival (Harris & Bryant) still need their #3 WR and I was afraid that my selection would not make it past them.</p> <p>Not wanting either team to grab the player I wanted, I offered to trade Shannon my 5.11 and 7.11 selections for his 5.08 and 8.05 selections. I get to jump 3 spots and select the player I want, while only giving up a 7 spot move in a later round. I felt the player that I wanted was easily worth that price, and any player I would want at 7.11, I could still probably get with my 8.02 pick or even the 8.05 pick that I traded for. In essence, I gave up a little later on for some assurance now.</p> <p>Shannon accepted the trade, and now I am free to select one of the players I wanted all along – Keenan McCardell.</p>
5.08	WR Keenan McCardell		<p>Keenan McCardell was, in my opinion, the best receiver left on the board approaching my selection at 5.11. However, fearing he wouldn't last until then, I traded up to the 5.08 spot to get him.</p> <p>McCardell has become a productive fantasy receiver since he joined the Jacksonville Jaguars and hitched his wagon on a quarterback named Bunnell. Brunell and the Jags have been noted for racking up the passing yardage, and McCardell has been one of the prime beneficiaries of those yards along with speedster Jimmy Smith. McCardell is the possession receiver for the Jags, and as such his TD numbers haven't been spectacular (3 in 1996, 5 in 1997). His yardage totals over those two years have made him a valuable commodity in performance based leagues (like the FanEx), though (1129 in 1996, 1164 in 1997). I'm not the only one impressed with McCardell's performance, either. The Jags recently extended Keenan's contract another 4 years (for approx. \$15.7 million), showing that they, too, are impressed with his abilities.</p> <p>McCardell was a bit streaky last season having 4 games under 50 yards, however, he looked extremely sharp in the final 6 games of last season, I trend that I hope will continue into 1998. McCardell averaged 105.3 yards over that span, with an average reception total of 7.5 per game. If McCardell gets the touches he showed just how effective he can be,</p>

			<p>scoring 4 of his 5 season TDs in that 6 game stretch as well.</p> <p>Jimmy Smith had more yards for the Jaguars last season, but McCardell had more TDs. Keenan's performance showed that there is no clear cut #1 WR on the Jags, but rather two genuine fantasy starters. I, for one, feel lucky to have grabbed McCardell as one of my starters in the later half of the fifth round.</p> <p>Up Next: My team still needs a starting QB, and with 2 of the teams needing a starter between me and my next pick at 6.02, I expect 1 or 2 to be gone. I feel that I can still get a serviceable starter at 6.02, so that's why I didn't jump at a QB in this spot. Heck, if one of the WRs I like is still on the board, I might not look at a QB until my next pick at 8.02.</p>
6.02	WR Keshawn Johnson		<p>I had decided going into my pick at 6.02 that I was going to wait on a QB and take the 3rd of my starting WRs. I avoided drafting a QB with this pick for the same reasons I avoided selecting one with my previous pick.</p> <p>I feel that no QB left on the board was much better than any other QB left, with the exception of Elway. I refuse to draft a starting QB in this round, without knowing if he will even suit up this season, so I avoided Elway. In addition, only 3 other teams besides my own have not drafted their starting QB - this meant other teams were more likely to fill out their starting lineups rather than grab a backup QB. Will I still be able to get a sure fire QB at 8.02 (my next pick)? No. Will I get a serviceable QB at that spot? I think it likely.</p> <p>Now onto why I selected Keyshawn "Just Throw Me The Damn Ball" Johnson. I had 3 receivers in mind at this spot, Terry Glenn, Keyshawn Johnson, and Johnnie Morton. Glenn was selected at 6.01, just ahead of me, so that cut my choices down to either Morton or Johnson. I chose Johnson for a couple of reasons.</p> <p>First, Johnson is the #1 WR on his team, while Morton will always be second fiddle to Herman Moore as long as Moore plays for Detroit. I had both of these guys putting up similar numbers in 1998, but if one was more likely than the other to break out with a big season, I thought it more likely the #1 guy. Advantage: Johnson.</p> <p>Second, their yardage average has been similar over the past two years (Johnson 903, Morton 885). As far as scoring goes, Johnson scored 13 TDs over that span while Morton had 12 TDs. Advantage: None.</p> <p>Third, the Detroit Lions reside in a tough conference and have the 5th hardest rated schedule in 1998. The Jets get an easier conference and an easier overall set of games, with only the 19th most difficult schedule. Advantage: Johnson.</p> <p>So, I selected Johnson and was quite happy to get someone of his caliber as my #3 receiver. As a side note, if I would have selected Morton, I would have been able to watch him on TV and yell, "Throw it to Morton!" By selecting Johnson, I get to watch him on TV and yell "Throw Johnson the damn ball!" I think I clearly got the superior choice in making my feelings known to my television set. :-)</p>

8.02	QB Trent Dilfer		<p>I was hoping to snag Warren Moon with my pick here at 8.02 and fill out my starting roster. Moon was taken at 7.11, so I was left with little choice at QB. I only need a QB to round out my roster, and while a few WRs did pique my interest, I decided to make sure I got a semi-decent starting QB now that other teams have started grabbing their backup QBs.</p> <p>Trent Dilfer was the top rated passer left on my board. I know, Dilfer as a starting fantasy QB doesn't exactly strike fear into the hearts of my opposition, but he is a solid QB who should put up O.K. numbers for my squad. Dilfer has a big frame 6'-4" and weighs in at 234 lb., so he isn't a QB that I worry about being able to take punishment. The only question most fantasy owners have of Dilfer is "Can he be a viable fantasy QB?" I think the answer to that question (for larger 12 team and up leagues) is "Yes."</p> <p>In 1997, Dilfer posted career bests in TDs (21), QB rating (82.8), and lowest Int. total (11) - not counting his first season when he only started 2 games. Dilfer has finally begun to show some of the promise that Tampa Bay had hoped for when they handed Dilfer the starting job in 1995. The Buccaneers have been primarily a ball-control run-oriented team in the past few years, and that will continue in 1998. However, Dilfer managed tossing 21 TDs to a lackluster receiving corps, with his top receiver being one of his running backs, Warrick Dunn. The only real talent the Bucs had at WR last season was rookie Reidel Anthony. However, the Bucs went into the free agent market looking for another receiving threat and they found one - Bert Emanuel. Emanuel gives the Bucs a play-making #1 WR, and should be able to help in Reidel Anthony's development as well.</p> <p>If Dilfer is going to succeed, this is the year to do it. He has more receiving weapons than he has ever had, including the valuable Warrick Dunn out of the backfield. Tampa Bay is likely to keep many games close with their stingy defense, so Dilfer won't be doing a lot of "catch up" passing, but I think he can improve on his numbers from last season which should put him in the top 12 fantasy QBs. While not thrilled to have Dilfer as my #1 QB, I am happy knowing it could have been worse.</p>
8.05	QB Bobby Hoying		<p>As I had said in my analysis of my 8.02 selection, I had hoped to get QB Warren Moon at 8.02. I was then hoping to snag a solid, if unexciting QB, like Trent Dilfer with this selection. With the selection of Moon at 7.11 and then my selection of Dilfer at 8.02, the thinking on this pick changed slightly. I toyed with the idea of grabbing another WR to fill out my required 6 at that spot, but felt that I was forced to go with another QB at this pick due to my weaker-than-hoped-for selection of Dilfer. Some will say that the player I selected could have been had later, and I tend to agree with that statement. However, with Emil Kadlec still needing a starting QB, and several other teams still looking for quality backups, I felt I had to follow up my #1 QB selection with another QB selection a mere 3 picks later. (With my next selection at 9.11, a solid backup QB may be hard to find.)</p> <p>I selected QB Robert Hoying (that's Bobby Hoying to most fans, but I'm trying to be respectful) with my 8.05 selection as my #2 QB. I know that some will disagree with this selection saying there were steadier, even if unexciting, QBs available like Aikman (who though not exactly having huge fantasy upside, is at least solid) or Marino (who is still a very</p>

			<p>talented QB, unfortunately stuck on a team moving in a different direction). I avoided some QBs at this pick because I thought they had limited upside (Aikman fits that bill), others because of injury concerns (insert Atlanta's Chandler and Chicago's Kramer here), or simply too much risk for the potential upside (Testaverde, who may be someone's #1 QB, or may not play at all). Hoying fits my want of a QB that I feel his some risk, but has the potential to turn in starting games for my fantasy team.</p> <p>Hoying started the final 6 games for the Eagles in 1997, and put up impressive numbers over that span (10 TDs, 1479 yards passing, 78 yards rushing). The Eagles offensive line was truly "offensive" in 1997 and Hoying was still able to put up those numbers, even against some good defensive squads like the Giants, Steelers, and Washington's tough secondary. Hoying still has Irving Fryar as his #1 WR this season, and the Eagles have also added former Jets WR, Jeff Graham, to the team. While Graham isn't going to set any receiving records, he is certainly better than the Eagles other sorry excuses for WRs last season (Freddie Solomon and Mark Seay come to mind). Chris T. Jones is rehabbing from last year's injury, and although he isn't yet 100%, he hopes to be fully recovered by training camp. The Eagle's O-line could be better as well, with Center Steve Everitt coming back from his season-ending injury in 1997. All of these are positives in Hoying's favor. The other thing that Hoying has going for him is the faith of his coaching staff. The Eagles know that Hoying is their future at QB (at least for now), and are willing to stick out a few bad outings by him. As a concern, the Eagles have lost the best part of their rushing attack, Rickey Watters, but even that may help Hoying's numbers in 1998. I don't see the Eagles being up too far on any teams, and they should be behind often enough and far enough to give Hoying the opportunities to do some heavy duty passing.</p> <p>Don't look for the same revolving door QB controversy in Philadelphia this year, Hoying is "the man" on the Eagles and I hope he can be "the man" on the Dolf Fins for at least a few games.</p>
9.11	RB James Stewart		<p>With so much time between sets of picks, I've been forced to take some players earlier than I would have liked. This is another one of those times.</p> <p>I need backups at RB and WR most in this spot, and I felt that the RB pool was certainly the one with the least amount of remaining talent. With my next pick (after the 10.02 selection) at 11.11, I didn't feel I could pass on a backup RB for much longer. I selected the RB left on the board with the most talent and the least amount of uncertainty.</p> <p>James Stewart split time with Natrone Means in 1997, and still managed to get 555 yards on 136 carries (improving his ypc average to 4.1) and 8 TDs. He also caught 41 passes for 336 yards and 1 TD. Now, it should be noted that 5 (yes, you read that right) of Stewart's 8 TDs came against a poor Philly run defense in a single game. (It was downright ugly.) That is certainly a concern of mine. However, the other RBs left on the board had more uncertainty surrounding their positions. Edgar Bennett will compete with Curtis Enis for the starting spot, Raymont Harris still hasn't signed with a team, Lawrence Phillips is among the glut of Miami RBs, etc., etc., etc.</p>

			<p>I didn't have nearly as much concern selecting Stewart. Yes, he will have to compete with rookie Fred Taylor for playing time. But I haven't seen Taylor in action against a professional team yet, and there is no guarantee that he will be the clear cut #1 RB in Jacksonville. Stewart also recently signed a 2 year extension with the Jaguars, which makes me think that they aren't planning on phasing him out of their offense completely, even if Taylor does win the starting job. He is a good receiver out of the backfield, and with Brunnell as his QB, he should see another 35-45 passes come his way this season. As the #2 man in Jacksonville in 1997, Stewart still managed to put up decent numbers. I see no reason why he couldn't produce those same numbers if he is the #2 man in 1998. And if Taylor falters, Stewart should step right in without missing a beat.</p>
10.02	WR Terrance Mathis		<p>My team is starting to take shape and it's the point in the draft where everyone is grabbing their backups and hoping to find that diamond in the rough. The FanEx rules regarding the analysis draft affected the way I made this selection. I could have gone for a young WR with a bunch of upside here, and I even considered grabbing my backup TE here. I liked the idea of having Drayton as my #2 TE here, but with the FanEx Analysis Draft scoring rules, it made selecting a backup TE a bad choice here. (The rules state my highest scoring 1 QB, 2 RBs, 3 WRs, 1 TE, and 1K each week will make up my score. Thus a backup TE must be better than my starting TE to actually score for me, while a backup WR needs to score higher than any one of three other WRs. This makes a backup WR a much more likely to make my score sheet, and more valuable to have on the team.) I could have gone with one of the untested rookies here, hoping to catch lightning in a bottle, but again, th!</p> <p>e scoring rules start my best 3 WRs, so I decided to grab a steadier (if less exciting) WR as my #4 man, and will look for that "diamond in the rough" WR with my #5 and #6 slots at the position.</p> <p>Terance Mathis has been in the league for 8 years, the last 4 with the Falcons and the first 4 with the Jets (for those of you that remember that far back or still pull out Super Techmo Bowl once in a while). His best year for Atlanta was his first, in 1994. He caught 111 passes that year. Unfortunately, his reception total has gone down every year since then. It was down to 62 last year. However, Mathis has still been able to put up decent yardage in the Falcons system, even when not being the favored target (such as last year when WR Bert Emanuel moved ahead of him as the #1 WR). He had 802 yards and 6 TDs as their #2 man last season.</p> <p>Things are different for the Falcons in 1998. WR Bert Emanuel has been stolen away through free agency. Originally it looked like Mathis would reclaim the #1 spot. Then the Falcons traded SD for their #1 WR, Tony Martin. Martin is expected by many to be the #1 receiver on Atlanta with Mathis again being #2. I think that this is a great situation for Mathis. I was less high on Mathis when I thought he would be the main focus of defensive backfields. With the addition of Martin, Mathis should be able to see a majority of single coverage, which will keep him an important part of this offense. Additionally, with Mathis as the most experienced WR in the Atlanta system, he may get more of the red zone looks than Martin. I see Mathis as a guy who will do about as well as last season, but with the chance to even add a few more TDs if Martin can't perform like Emanuel did last season. And as a #4 WR on my team, that's good enough for me.</p>

11.11	WR Leslie Sheppard		<p>Well, we're starting to reach the bottom of the barrel in all areas. And when you get to this part of the draft you have to take some chances. Shepherd has some injury problems, but he was the least risky pick at WR left.</p> <p>Shepherd is slated to start for the Redskins, and there aren't many starters left. If you can get a starter at this point, you should take him. Let's be honest ... No one is expecting anything spectacular from Mr. Shepherd or the Washington pass offense but I'd rather have the #2 WR on a team than take a stab at a long shot, at this point. That's what rounds 12-14 are for.</p> <p>Also, with the scoring in this league (You don't hand in a starting line-up, whoever scores the most at the different positions each week automatically become your starters.) the chance that a WR could break into your line up is better than at any other position. This is because 3 WR's are started, more than any other position.</p> <p>Next up, well it's round 12, the Fins will probably be taking a chance on a long shot.</p>
12.02	RB Duce Staley		<p>The Fins had a couple of choices here, go with a back up tight end or the #4 RB for the squad. It was hard to pass up the TE with a couple good ones still available, but I believe Dudley will end up one of the two top TE's this year with Gruden's offense. Place kicker wasn't a consideration, since you have to have two in this league and your top guy's points are taken for each position, consistency isn't needed at PK here. (Normally consistency is very important with kickers, though.) We'll wait on a kicker.</p> <p>So, it came to a running back. It came to three choices for us; Staley, Larry Centers, and Edgar Bennett. Bennett has the most chances for getting carries at first, and if Enis is a bust he could get some decent numbers, but he would still be splitting time with a durable young running back. Frankly, even if Enis is a bust, which I doubt being a PSU alum (when was the last time a Penn State RB was a bust in the... nevermind, at least they can keep out of jail) anyway even if he were a bust, the Bears will still probably keep giving him the ball. Look at how long they stuck with Salaam. No, Bennett has a lot of other RBs on that team and may have a below average year or nothing at all.</p> <p>Larry Centers had a good year two years ago and fizzled out last year. The Cards are going to be better, but with Murrell now in the backfield most chances won't be coming his way. If we held off on the RB position and Centers was still around in round 13, we probably would have taken him. But there just isn't enough upside.</p> <p>So we come to Staley. He rushed 7 times last year. No, you didn't miss a digit; seven times. That's all. He did excel as a kick returner for the Eagles, though, and showed flashes of quickness and power. Garner is the man in the Eagles backfield and will get most of the touches, running and catching. Kevin Turner will also be a small factor. But Garner hasn't shown that he's durable. And when the Eagles had a chance to get a decent free agent running back (Raymont Harris, Edgar Bennett) they didn't. Now, they know Garner isn't likely to last, not with 20 carries per game,</p>

			<p>but they still held off. I feel Duce will get about 5-8 carries/catches per game, unless Garner gets injured. Then Staley could be the #1 RB for Philly. Unfortunately for us Eagles fans, Charlie Garner might not last, but they might have a real gem waiting in the wings.</p> <p>If Staley is your #3 running back, you're in trouble. But he may be worth a gamble at #4.</p> <p>Plus, his name is Duce. You can't pass that up.</p>
13.11	WR Tony Simmons		<p>. Who will be the #3 WR in New England? Good question. Right now, it looks like Troy Brown. Brown had a pretty good year, stepping up when Glenn went down. But when the Pats took Simmons in the second round last year, they were looking to the future at WR. At the time, the future was very shaky. Both Brown and Jefferson have been surprises for the Pats. doing well when called upon, but are they future franchise wide receivers? Probably not.</p> <p>Terry Glenn is injury prone. And if Simmons lives up to his potential, he could move up to #2 WR if Glenn goes down and Simmons leap frogs over Brown or Jefferson. Simmons has good size and is fast (under 4.4 in the 40); he's a little rough right now, but with Bledsoe around, he could blossom.</p> <p>We thought about a couple other players here, namely Jacquez Green and Billy Davis(Dal). But Green was on a very run oriented team with a conservative offense. And Davis is on Dallas, and that would make three NFC East WR's. Both players would be worth looking at in this area, though. Especially Green if you gets points for a player's special team performance.</p> <p>This pick is a bit of a gamble. But the Fins feel Tony "Bananas-In-Pajamas" Simmons may be a good sleeper bet in the late rounds.</p>
14.02	PK Gary Anderson		<p>The Vikings, this year, with Brad Johnson at 100% or not, are going to score a bunch of points. They simply have too many weapons. Somebody has to kick the ball through the uprights after they score. This year, it is Fuad Re... errr.. Gary Anderson, I mean.</p> <p>He doesn't have a huge amount of range left, but he's accurate. And the dome setting is a perfect one for an NFL kicker. Any dome kicker gets extra points in my book. And Gary has 10 dome games on his schedule this year. TEN!!(Actually 11, if you count Dallas' fueld as a dome, close enough.)</p> <p>It may even be better if Johnson is out for Anderson, Minnesota may have to attempt more field goals. Ladies and Gentlemen, if you can get Anderson this late in your draft, get him.</p> <p>Yes, we feel Reveiz will be a great addition.</p>
15.11	TE Chris Gedney		<p>We are at the bottom of the proverbial fantasy barrel here, and still have a TE and a Kicker to go. There are 4 selections between this pick and my last. In those selections 1 TE and 2 Kickers will be picked. I think the kicker pool is much deeper than the TE pool, so I went TE here in the</p>

			<p>15th.</p> <p>There were a few TEs considered at this spot, but I chose Chris Gedney over others for a few reasons. Gedney WILL get the majority of playing time on the Cardinals. He only started a single game last year, but put up far better numbers than his biggest competition at TE, Johnny McWilliams. Gedney had at least 1 reception in 14 of 16 games last season, so I can expect at least 1 touch per game from my backup TE. The Cardinals have a new offensive coordinator in 1998, Marc Trestman. Trestman should bring more of a true "West Coast" look to the Cards offense, and Gedney could be a benefactor of even more looks. Fantasy owners' biggest fear about Gedney is his lack of durability. (Gedney missed 35 games in his first 4 NFL seasons.) Durability is certainly a concern, but with the lack of quality choices in the 15th round, I just can't worry about injuries to my backup TE. Gedney was hot over the last 4 games of the 1997 season scoring in 3 of 4 games (on 5 receptions), and hopefully that trend continues into 1998.</p> <p>Gedney is an O.K. selection as a backup TE, and has some upside if Trestman uses the TE in his version of the West Coast Offense more extensively than Arizona did last year.</p>
16.02	PK Todd Peterson		<p>I waited until the final pick of this draft to get my backup K, which is a pretty good idea in almost any draft, but especially in a draft where the top scorer at that position is automatically started for me each week.</p> <p>I am more than happy to have a kicker like Todd Peterson round out my roster. Peterson has been wonderfully consistent in his season scoring over the past 3 years with 109, 111, and 103 points. One of the reasons Gary Anderson was selected to the Dolf Fins was the amount of games he played in domed stadiums (10, 11 if you count Dallas' half-dome), and the same holds true for Peterson. Peterson gets to play his 8 home games inside Seattle's dome which certainly helps his consistency. Peterson has decent range and can hit the occasional 50+ yarder. Additionally, I expect an overall improvement in Seattle's offense with the addition of Rickey Watters, so I expect Peterson will see at least as many scoring opportunities in 1998, and possibly more. All in all, Peterson is a fine selection as any team's #2 kicker, who has a good shot at cracking the top 12 and even most fantasy team's starting lineups.</p> <p>Look out FanEx, the Dolf Fins are now fully operational!</p>