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RB Edgerrin James
QB: RB James: WR: TE: PK:



1.07
RB LaDainian Tomlinson
QB: RB: Tomlinson WR: TE: PK:



1.08
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QB: Manning RB: WR: TE: PK:



1.09
WR Randy Moss
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1.10
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1.01 RB Marshall Faulk STL By Shannon O'Leary of [FanEx](#)

In my opinion, Marshall Faulk is the clear cut number one pick. With some of the other FAD picks recovering from injuries, Faulk looks to be the main top back ready to go. Barring injury, there is no reason to believe that Faulk will not be in the top 5 in fantasy scoring. He is a field general who gets plenty of opportunity. And no I am not concerned about the rookie or Candidate eating into his numbers.



1.01 RB Marshall Faulk STL **By Ryan Early of ESPN Insider**

With more than 2,000 yards from scrimmage in each of the past 3 seasons, Faulk is the no-brainer #1 selection.

The only worries about the NFL MVP are his age and the increasing likelihood of injury. At 29 years of age with 8 seasons behind him, Faulk is at a point in his career where his best days are behind him. He has missed 2 games to injury in each of the last 2 seasons. The question is, how steep will his drop-off in production be? The answer is probably "not much." He may miss more games to injury and Rams coach Mike Martz may attempt to save Faulk for the playoffs more than in previous years, but Faulk has averaged over 150 yards a game the last 3 years, and at least 1.5 touchdowns a game since 2000.

Even a 10% drop in production to 135 yards and 1.35 TDs per game would still more than warrant the top overall selection. The bottom line is that Marshall Faulk is a player that can push your team over the top to a fantasy championship.



1.01 RB Marshall Faulk STL **By Guest Dustin Koehler**

Now did you expect someone else with the first selection? I guess an argument could be made for Alexander or Green, but they would be hard pressed to justify it. Faulk is the most versatile offensive talent in the NFL. He is the Associated Press NFL Offensive Player award winner for the third straight year, posting over 2,000 yards from scrimmage for the fourth season in a row. He set a league record with his 26 TDs in 2000! Obviously you don't expect a repeat performance, but I'll take the 21 TDs he managed in 2001 as an encore. Did I forget to mention that he only played in 14 games both of those seasons? Wow! No one can question his desire and ability to come back from adversity and post great numbers despite injury.

I probably don't have to spend too much time explaining why I believe this is the only player you

can take with the 1st pick this season. It is my belief that in order to win in most leagues, you need a stud RB. Marshall is THE stud RB. He will be 29 this coming season and it is his ninth in the league. His production may indeed drop slightly this season, but it will remain at a level above all other RBs. Definitely a player you can build your fantasy team around as long, as the Rams continue their overpowering offense. I haven't seen anything this off-season to suggest otherwise. And last I recall this was a redraft league. By taking Faulk first, that owner already has the advantage. I'll finish this brief analysis with some words from the man himself with regards to his future.

"Most people would say you've got no room for improvement -- that's most people," he said. "But I know what's really going on and I know the things I probably need to work on."

"It's all fun," said Faulk, who was acquired for a second-round and fifth-round draft pick from Indianapolis in '99. "Anytime you get an opportunity to step on the field and compete, it's fun."

It's hard to imagine Marshall getting any better than he is right now. But I'd be glad to let him win my championship single-handedly trying, and having a little fun in the process.



1.02 QB Kurt Warner STL **By TC Cannon of Youth Fantasy Football**

Back-to-back Rams? Yes sir. Until defenses find a way to stop them, a double dip of Faulk plus Warner is at the top of the FF menu. Simply put, Warner is the commander of the most potent offense in the league. No where else will you find a player that promises production like he does - 4000 yards and 30+ scores are not his forecast projections, they are *promised* numbers. He is very worthy of a top-three selection.

While there are a few others worth consideration at the 1.02, my research stopped when it was realized

that there are many, many draftable rushers. As many as 15 different RBs could be drafted before my next selection. Even so.. the talent bucket is full of quality ball carriers.



1.02 QB Kurt Warner STL

By Guest Thom Eads

I find this particular selection to be in contrast to a great many of the "expert" opinions that you will likely find. Does that necessarily mean it is a "bad" pick? Quite contrary, in my opinion. I find this to be the only logical pick here at the second slot.

You will read over and over, ad nauseum, from the "stud RB" theorists that Ahman Green, Shaun Alexander, or perhaps Ricky Williams is the only pick that can be made here. After all, this team now must wait and watch 20 more selections before a RB can be selected for this team. I am one who is dead opposed to the "stud RB" theory. I have a very firm belief that the first three rounds of any fantasy football draft must be approached with one thought in mind... LITTLE OR NO RISK. No one is likely to win their league in the first three rounds. Several of the teams in any given 12 team league will lose their league in those same three rounds. To those of you that say Alexander or Green have to be taken here, keep in mind that just last year, Alexander could be had in the 8th round or later. Ahman Green was the same three years ago. Two more words for those who say you have to take a stud RB in the first.... Preist Holmes!

As for the Kurt Warner pick on its' own merits, an mild, short-lived argument can be made for Peyton Manning. However, with Warner, a fantasy owner can not really go wrong. No other player is this certain after Marshall Faulk. Mark down 4200 yards, 35+ TDs and anything else is gravy. You are likely to need more than one gravy bowl and several ladles.



1.03 RB Ahman Green GB

By William Del Pilar | Ryan Bonini of KFFL

We entered round one looking at running backs and quickly narrowed our choices down to three RBs, Ahman Green, Priest Holmes and Shaun Alexander.

We also really liked Ricky Williams but with the first-round being so important to fantasy teams we felt we needed to come away with a proven guy that has little question marks surrounding him entering the season. That player is Ahman Green, of the Green Bay Packers.

RBs are so important to fantasy teams due to the lack of clear cut No. 1 type players and we did not want to find ourselves behind the 8-ball down the road from going with a player at another position. Green is a dual threat, able to produce points through rushing and receiving. In the past two seasons in Green Bay, he's piled up 2,560 yards rushing, 19 rushing TDs while clicking along at an average of better than 4.5 yards per carry. Combine that with 136 receptions for 1,155 yards and 5 TDs and you have a very productive RB that can spearhead the attack for a fantasy team with consistent weekly results.

With the Packers completely revamping their WRs this off-season, Green is likely to be an even bigger factor for the team because QB Brett Favre will have confidence in him after two years in the system. It will also take time for the WRs to gel, pointing towards the coaching staff also relying more on Green early in the year. With no true backup behind him at this time, there are little worries of someone stealing touches away from him.

Thus, we have a true No. 1 back that is comfortable in his offensive system, utilized well in that system, has a more than competent offensive line returning in front of him and has the always dangerous Favre at QB to keep defenses from keying in solely on him.

While Holmes, Alexander and Williams could all be argued here, we felt it in our best interest to continue our typical draft strategy and go with the safe and dominating selection rather than possibly reach for a player that has more questions than answers already defined.



1.03 RB Ahman Green GB

By Guest Rod Brehm

It's amazing what a fresh start and a little confidence can do for a guy (of course, playing with the three time MVP doesn't hurt either).

In a matter of 3 years, Ahman Green has gone from Mike Holmgren's doghouse to one of the top running backs in the game. Green is a tough runner between the tackles, has the speed to get around the corner, and is a threat to take it to the house every time he touches the ball. Oh yea, he catches a few passes now and again (he led the Pack in receptions with 63).

After Faulk, there is a slew of backs fighting it out for the title of second best RB. Most publications will have Green, S. Alexander, R. Williams, C. Martin, and Tomlinson rated in their top 6 RBs, but many of them won't agree on the order. Out of that group, Green may be the safest pick. As he enters his third year in the Packer's system, some experts think Favre may have to lean on him even more due to the totally revamped receiving tandem of Terry Glenn and second year pro Robert Ferguson. While I agree, I also believe that WR Glenn will force teams to respect the deep ball again, opening up more running lanes for Green. Freeman and Schroeder simply didn't present any problems for opposing defenses, therefore they could afford to load up on the run. I also know that Favre could be throwing to you and me and still toss 25+ TDs, so I wouldn't worry about him taking too much time to get comfortable with his new receiving mates. (In case you were wondering, I'm 5' 11", have hands of stone, run a 7.2 40, and have a 3 inch vertical non-leap.)

One of the only downsides I see to Green is that the Packers use a lot of play action around the goal line, and TE Bubba Franks will steal his share of TDs. That being said, I look for Ahman to once again approach 2000 total yards and rack up 12+ TDs. He is worthy of a top 5 pick in any draft.

**1.03 RB Ahman Green GB****By Guest Dan Grogan of Grogan Sports**

Ahman Green has just what you're looking for in a

first round pick - he's a proven solid performer with little risk. You're getting a guy who is multi-dimensional and can score and get good yardage in many ways. He has scored 24 times in the last two seasons (13 total TDs in '00 and 11 last season) and has topped 100 yards ten times in the past two years. Seven of those performances came last season. He was also one of just four backs to run for 150+ yards on three occasions last year. Great versatility is part of his make up too as he finished 5th last year among all RBs in receiving yards (594).

The changes in Green Bay's receiving corps may actually help Green this season. WRs like Terry Glenn, Robert Ferguson and Javon Walker are going to have to prove themselves very quickly in this system. However, in the meantime, the Packers and Brett Favre know what they have in Green and we might see an even greater dependence on him in '02.



1.04 RB Shaun Alexander SEA **By David Dodds of Footballguys.com**

Shaun's statistics are enough to justify this pick alone:

Rushing: 309 carries for 1,318 yards and 14 TDs
Receiving: 44 catches for 343 yards and 2 TDs

But consider the following:

- Shaun had only 27 rushing yards after the first 3 games.
- Shaun only started 12 games
- Shaun had a league best 266 yard rushing performance (and 3 TDs) against the Oakland Raiders (better than average defense)
- Shaun turns 25 in August.
- Shaun has the prototype RB body: 5"11 and 218 lbs.
- Seattle gets out the AFC West which has been traditionally very strong against the run. The Seahawks move to the NFC West which has Arizona and SF (typically soft against the run)
- Ricky Watters is no longer with the Seahawks and will not vulture carries.

There might have been safer picks available, but I for one will not be surprised when Shaun Alexander is the best player in the NFL next year. Ricky Watters is gone which means that Shaun will be on the field for virtually every play. His new opponents look much weaker at defending the run and Shaun should be able to exploit it with his breakaway speed.



1.04 RB Shaun Alexander SEA

By Guest Tim Ludwig

I am willing to bet that David Dodds never anticipated that Shaun Alexander would be available at 1.04. This may seem like a strange statement to some of the Fantasy Owners viewing the FanEx Analysis Draft. After all, with players like Edgerrin James, Marshall Faulk, Ahmad Green, Kurt Warner, and Ricky Williams; why would it be a surprise that a running back with only one good year like Alexander would still be available?

When drafting in the early first round, you want three things in a player. First, you generally want a stud running back. Though some would disagree on that, you can get a good quarterback and wide receiver later. Stud Running backs are far and few in between.

Second, you would like a player that has the potential to improve on his numbers from the prior year. This is not always the case but generally you would like to have the chance to have the next Marshall Faulk (or Terrell Davis in his prime). When you look up "upside" in the dictionary, you will see a picture of Shaun Alexander next to it. The kid had 1313 yards rushing and 343 yards receiving and 16 Touchdowns in only 12 starts. 12 starts? That is amazing.

Last, you want a player that will not be a bust. The old adage is that you do not win a draft in the first few rounds but you can lose one there. Any fantasy owner that had Jamal Anderson or Terrell Davis in 1999 will whole-heartedly agree to this. Alexander will not be a bust. He was a stud in college and has been a stud in the pros every time he has seen action in a game. There is always worries on a player before he has done it for 3 or 4 years in pros but trust me on this one!

I obviously love this pick for the reasons I stated

above. I project that Alexander will have 1555 rushing yards, 451 receiving yards and 16 touchdowns. Bravo to you Mr. Dodds, you just took your first step to building a FanEx championship caliber team.



1.05 RB Ricky Williams NO **By Chris Dolfi of [FanEx](#)**

I had originally intended to take whichever of Alexander, Green, or Williams would fall to me at this pick. I had given VERY serious consideration to James here as well, despite his ACL surgery.

Side note on why I wasn't too afraid of James' knee: He claimed he couldn't make it to mini-camp because he was 'rehabbing his knee'. Apparently it's not as bad as he might have the Colts brass believe, since he was caught playing flag football in Miami in a semi-final match against A-1 Security. He even reported to on-lookers who asked about his knee after watching James play WR, making hard cuts, and covering on man-to-man defense, "It looked good, didn't it?" That doesn't sound like a man with too many problems to me. But I guess we'll see when his flag-football team squares off against Noodles Cafe in the finals ;-)

So I'll stick with my head and pick Ricky instead of the feeling in my gut that tells me James will be better than some folks expect.

Williams is a head-case, that's a fact. But he's a head-case on a team that loves to run the ball, and he'll get plenty of chances to do so. Miami was a lackluster 23rd of the 31 teams in the NFL in rushing, and they expect Williams to really help turn that around. That's a pretty good bet.

Williams yards have increased in each of his first 3 seasons, and over the past two years he averages a nice 4.0 yards a carry, and has been tossing in 450 yards in receptions to boot. Consecutive 1000 yard seasons don't hurt, either. His TD count has been lower than what people would have liked, but 9 TDs

in 2000 and 7 in 2001 is still a decent average.

I'll take Ricky, his 1200 yards, his 8 TDs, and his wedding dress history any day.



1.05 RB Ricky Williams

By Guest Carl Weatherford

Ricky Williams gets a bad rap in regards to his health. Oh, he does get hurt, but he's no Ryan Leaf. Williams is a rock stud but runs like one. Hence, injuries follow. Moving to a new team is of even greater concern than his injuries. Yes, Miami is a run oriented team but the move is also across conferences. Why so RB crazy guys?! There are plenty of great picks available, Ricky Williams falling just short of the term "great pick". Non-risk picks are almost non-existent and Ricky is a solid football player so the pick makes sense.



1.05 RB Ricky Williams

By Guest Michael Zangrilli

Ricky Williams is a player that I really waver back and forth on. I don't think he's one of the great RBs in the NFL talent wise. His yards per carry (YPC) has been just 4.0 the past two years. He doesn't break long runs, and thus isn't much of a threat to score long TDs. His receiving numbers have been decent to good, but I wouldn't put him in the class of Faulk, Holmes, Green, Barber, or Garner. Quite frankly, I don't think Williams is all that great of a FF player.

What gets me leaning the other way is the situation that Williams is in. Look at Eddie George in 2000: great fantasy numbers strictly because he got so many touches and all the goal line looks. George's YPC wasn't good - just 3.7. The questions for Ricky Williams are: 'Will he get over 400 touches' and 'Will he score a lot of TDs, mostly from short yardage'? I don't see Williams catching as many passes, but his rushing opportunities should increase. The TD thing is just so hard to predict. Miami has made TD machines out of poor RBs before (K. Abdul-Jabbar and Lamar Smith), so it's easy to say that Williams is a lock for 15 TDs.

The bottom line is that Williams is in a place where he can put up huge numbers. But he won't do it on his own, and that worries me. I much prefer RBs that don't rely on tons of touches and goal line TDs; RBs that have high YPC, breakaway speed, and in general, have the ability to make things happen on their own. I feel Williams is too risky to take at #5, but this could be his big year. Personally, I would strongly consider the elite WRs and QBs over Williams because I think some of them have less risk with just as high a reward.



1.06 RB Edgerrin James

By Jerome Hickerson of TalkFootball.com

I wanted Ricky Williams with this selection. I made an effort to trade up to 1.05 when Williams fell that far, but was unable to reach a deal.

I never considered any position other than a RB with this slot. The only QB I would have considered was Kurt Warner and he was off the board. And this slot is too early for me to have considered a WR.

So my choices were narrowed to RBs Priest Holmes, Curtis Martin, Eddie George and Edgerrin James. Holmes was the guy that I came closest to selecting but I just couldn't bring myself to pull the trigger on him. He may well produce another high performance season, but something made my skin crawl when I tried to select him with the 6th overall selection.

I elected to gamble on James. And make no mistake about this -- I know that this pick is a gamble. I wanted to trade downward, but trading down requires that someone wants to trade up and that wasn't the case here. On balance, I decided that Holmes, George, and Martin were also gambles and that the greatest upside was with James.



1.06 RB Edgerrin James

By Guest Mike Krueger of [FF Today](http://FFToday.com)

I must echo the sentiments of Mr. Eads (see analysis

of 1.02 Warner)... "little or no risk" is a good play here, especially in the first round. And, although James and the rest of "Da Squad" seem to be tearing up the local recreation flag-football league, he is coming off a knee injury and with other quality first-round-types still on the board, the James selection seems like an unnecessary risk. Let's not forget that his torn ACL occurred October 25th of last year. The recovery time of today's athlete is truly amazing and it's certainly possible James could come out Week 1 and remind us all that he is still the 2nd best all-around RB in the league. However, I'm from the "Show-Me" state, so I'll have to see it before I believe it.

If nothing else, Edgerrin will be one of the more interesting players talked about as draft time approaches. You're likely to see him taken anywhere from mid-first to late-second round which makes for great debate and interesting discussion.



1.06 RB Edgerrin James **By Guest Tom Walls of FanEx Friend**

I was on the FanEx chat room the other night and I made the following stupid comment, "If this was August and if we knew E. James was 100% healthy, he would have been a top 3 pick."

Well, duh! Of course he would be a top 3 pick. This guy is great (I am choosing to ignore his work on Da Squad, because I think it is a non-issue, unless he rips an ACL playing for them (How many Miami area FF teams will be named Da Squad, by the way?).

This is a very good pick at this point, though. There is some risk, but very good reward. D. Rhodes did a very capable job as E. James' back up last year, but he just isn't as good. Granted, there won't be as many break away TDs for James this year because of his injury, but he should still get you the scores you need as a top flight draft pick. Keep an eye on E. James, if he is healthy, he should be a top pick in your draft come August. Let's face it, that's what these guys are doing this for-help for FF players- not their own glory , right? That is a handicap with this league, it's very early in the year...

Don't worry about Dungy coming on as head coach,

he's a smart guy and will leave the offense alone. If anything, this means more running opps for James as the team will probably be ahead more often than they were last year.

And, what's this? The Texans and the Jaguars on the schedule twice this year? Four games of good stats...NICE!

Seriously, a good pick at this point, but I am a strict proponent of the stud RB theory. Moss would have been a very good pick too, but I feel James was the only other safe pick here, and the owner can concentrate on other positions with their next few picks.

This owner made a good, safe pick. Good job.



1.07 RB LaDainian Tomlinson By John Hansen of The Guru Report

This was a very tough call between Tomlinson and Priest Holmes. While Tomlinson has only a year under his belt, I have to believe he has a better chance of being "the real deal." One issue with Holmes this year is I think they'll be a little less of a reliance on him because the Chief passing game will be better. While Holmes should get more scoring opportunities because of that, FB Tony Richardson does remain to steal some of those TDs. Tomlinson is clearly his team's only viable weapon at RB/FB and he is without question one of the top go-to guys at his position, so I'm happy to take him here.



1.07 RB LaDainian Tomlinson By Guest Philip Gentles of ProFantasySports

LT1? LT in the 1st ? Bit of a reach don't you think ? Tomlinson IS a solid back coming off an impressive rookie season but I just don't consider him a top 10 fantasy player.

I was actually hoping the run on RBs would have

ended at this pick. Manning, Culpepper, Harrison, Moss, Owens.....all still available and all a class above LT. Passing won't be much of an option in San Diego this season so look for teams to key in on the Charger rushing attack. He'll still produce numbers, but nothing exceptional.

Now I understand the importance of having at least 1 stud RB on roster. So if a back is a must at this spot, I think a more established back like Curtis Martin or more explosive back like Priest Holmes would have made safer selections.

[Editor note: The other side of the coin is that John Hansen is the most successful owner in FanEx history. He often surprises the membership with his early selections and he's positive September record.]



1.08 Payton Manning

**By Chris Rito of FF Mastermind
and Carlos Panizo of STATS, Inc.**

We had not anticipated that Randy Moss AND Peyton Manning would both be here at this selection. That made the choice tough. Ultimately it boiled down to making the safer pick since in the FAD you cannot make roster changes.

You know that you will get 4000 and 30 TDs from Manning, no matter what (plus a rush TD or two). You know he is consistently productive game to game. You know he will be in the lineup every week, having only missed one snap in his career. In fact, this gives us an edge since we really can wait longer than anyone else to grab a QB#2, thus allowing us to stock our depth at RB-WR a little better during this draft. "Dungification" of the offense will not be an issue with Tom Moore still calling the shots there.

But you also know his weapons are prime-time caliber, possibly even better than last year with the addition of Qadry Ismail and the development of Rhodes, Wayne and Pollard. The Colts' schedule is very pass-friendly this season as well, including new

divisional rivals JAX-TEN-HOU who all look to have less-than-average secondaries. And the Colts' defense is still suspect so he will be throwing.

Moss should be the #1 WR in 2002, and he will win several games for some owner all by himself, and the Vikes have promised to make his numbers ridiculous... but ultimately we chose to take the player that we would not have to worry about or wonder about for 16 weeks. FAD rules made this choice for us - know your system before drafting!



1.08 Payton Manning

By Guest Stephen Hatfield

I have to agree with Manning over Moss. Frankly I was surprised to see both available at 1.08 (which is my way of saying I didn't think Tomlinson or Holmes should have been taken over Moss and especially Manning). Rito was correct in stating one must keep the rules in mind when drafting. Manning has been very durable in the NFL. Yes, he missed a couple of games last year but that was an unusual injury. He is a good bet to be there the whole season. Also, I feel the Colts will be fighting for the playoff lives in December, therefore Manning will be playing rather than sitting.

Why not Moss? The Vikings and Tice have done nothing but talk about how they must get the ball to Moss. However, Randy is Randy. Who is the more stable personality, Moss or Manning? (duh!) Moss has also been pretty durable but wide receivers have a better chance to miss games than quarterbacks.

Why not Priest Holmes? At this point in the draft, there are enough running backs left, all ranked about the same (IMHO) that one will be available for these guys in round 2. Yes, running backs are important but remember, there are no changes allowed after the draft. Manning or Holmes, which has a better chance to be injured? Also, the Chiefs look to pick up their passing this year which may lessen Priest's numbers.

Bottom line - just the pick I would have made (and been smiling broadly!). Good job guys!



1.08 Payton Manning **By Guest Brian Kreklau of Wild Card Sports**

Taking any QB other than Kurt Warner in the first round this year, seems foolish to me. I thought Chris Rito really reached on this selection.

One of his comments included, "You know that you will get 4000 and 30 TDs from Manning, no matter what." While this may be true, he failed to mention that Manning has shown the propensity to throw more than 20 interceptions a season. In the scoring system of this league, those 20 INTs make his net TD passes equal to 15. In comparison, Rich Gannon tossed 27 TDs last year with only 9 INTs. That gives the Raider a net of 18 TDs. Jeff Garcia tossed 32 TDs and only 12 INTs for a net of 20. Brett Favre tossed 32 and had 15 INTs for a net of 17. Just looking at the positives without weighing the negatives can give a drafter a skewed outlook at a player.

Another comment that Chris made regarding his selection should also come up for debate: "Dungification" of the offense will not be an issue with Tom Moore still calling the shots there." That is one opinion, but my opinion is that Tony Dungy is the new head coach and will overrule Tom Moore in crunch time. Coach Dungy has been a fantasy QB killer for many years, preferring to play it safe and play field position. He has been a winner in the NFL in the regular season and he sticks to what he knows. I expect Manning to still be a solid fantasy QB this year, but I also expect his overall numbers to go down. I thought the Chris would have done better by looking to either trade down with a RB-hungry (or Moss-hungry) owner in this spot. We'll see when Brett Favre/Jeff Garcia get taken in this draft and see how far Chris may have been able to move down to secure QBs of the same, if not better, caliber of Manning.



1.09 WR Randy Moss

By Greg Kellogg of [Komments](#)

Randy Moss was thrown to 153 times last year. In fact, that is the most he has been thrown to in his career. Fifteen more times than his previous best (1999). This year Head Coach Mike Tice says he wants Moss to be the recipient of 40% of all passes thrown. That would work out to 222 passes thrown his way based on last year's attempts (555).

Now I obviously don't believe he will get that many passes thrown his way, but even if he only gets 30 more he should dominate and could easily break every single season record there is.

I actually tried to trade down with the three drafter's behind me because I thought Moss might fall one or two more spots. When they didn't bite, I did.



1.09 WR Randy Moss

By Guest Mark Howe

Randy Moss at this spot is an ugly selection, making the last three picks the good, the bad, and the ugly. I'll let you decide on the good and bad.

As for the ugly, Moss is a head-case without the wisdom of his mentor, Cris Carter, to get him through the season. I honestly don't think the guy will finish as a fantasy stud this year without the benefit of the future Hall-of-Famer lining up on the other end of the line.

I liken him to Ryan Leaf, but with talent. He has the physical size and the physical ability to get the job done, even if he's slow coming off the line when the play isn't going his way. It's his attitude and mental toughness that will drive Culpepper and Co. nuts this season.

I will have Moss lower on my board this year, behind Owens and Harrison, and will likely not get him in any league.

As a side note: I may not have taken Moss ahead of Curtis Martin and am surprised the Jets RB slipped behind a few other highly touted younger RBs higher

in the draft. Of course, I'm not a fantasy expert, either.



1.09 WR Randy Moss

By Guest Lee Hauenstein

Moss this early in the draft is a big reach. With the RBs still available the safer and better pick would have been RBs Curtis Martin or Corey Dillon. From my experience the past couple years, RBs have really come at a premium. During the course of a season many of the top RBs have went down to injury the past couple seasons (e.g. Fred Taylor, Jamal Anderson, Terrell Davis). If Mr. Kellogg is some sort of magician and can psychically make Randy Moss want to play, then its a good pick, but I do not see it happening.



1.10 RB Curtis Martin

By Duane Cahill of [Pitt Tribune-Review](#)

Knowing your opponent is overrated.

When Rito took Peyton Manning at 1.08, there was no doubt in my mind that Randy Moss would be my selection at 1.10. After all, Kellogg's history is to draft three "stud" running backs, usually with his first three picks.

When Kellogg offered the trade down that he mentioned in his analysis, I scoffed at the notion, thinking that only TC Cannon would be inclined to make such a trade. However, TC wasn't one of the principals to whom the trade was offered. Kellogg would be stuck with his pick, take a running back, and Moss would fall to me. So perfect.

Swing and a miss, strike three!

Martin gets the nod over Priest Holmes at this selection because of history. Martin is the proven horse, and still has a very good offensive line in front of him. LaMont Jordan awaits in the wings, but C-Mart still has another couple of good years in him

before he begins to yield carries to the sophomore. Had this been a keeper draft, I'd have likely taken Holmes instead.

Whether I believe in the "stud running back" theory or not (I don't) is irrelevant to this selection. Martin is probably the safest pick on the board, and I firmly believe that you cannot win your league in the first four rounds -- you can only lose it there by taking stretches and risks. No stretch for me. Curtis, welcome back to Pittsburgh!



1.10 RB Curtis Martin

By Guest James Wilsey

I agree whole-heartedly with the value of this selection. Curtis Martin is a 30 year old RB. He is a seven year veteran out of the University of Pittsburgh. He stands in at 5-11 and 205 lbs. He is a solid work horse... has only missed one game to injury. How many RBs can you say that about?

Martin's lifetime numbers are very impressive. He averages 334 carries for 1323 yards a season (4.0 yd average per carry) As well as 46 catches for 334 yards a season (7.1 average) and averages 10 total TDs a season.

Last year Curtis had 333 carries for 1513 yds and 10 TDs plus another 320 receiving yds.

However, last year Curtis was held out of the endzone the last 7 regular season games. During those 7 games the Jets went 4-3. If you take out week 10 win against Miami (24-0) the other 6 games were decided by a total of 19 points. So it seems that Curtis Martin goes so does the Jets.

I full very confident that Curtis is far from slowing down... last season he had career best numbers in total yards and average per carry as well as second best rushing TD total.

I project another 300 plus carries, 1450 rushing yds, 10 rushing TDs, 45 receptions for 350 yds and 2 receiving TDs.

As the 7th RB taken and 10th pick overall Curtis

Martin will fill the role of stud back and not falter. Of the other 2 backs taken after Curtis, (Holmes and Dillon) Martin is and will be more consistent on a weekly basis.



1.10 RB Curtis Martin

By Guest Kirk Bouyelas

Duane... Thank your lucky stars that the \$100,000,000 man did not fall to you at this spot. You might have been tempted to take Moss with the lure of potential greatness, then disappointed by the reality of a spoiled, lazy, self centered player. Can you tell I'm not high on Moss? I tried to be subtle.

I totally agree with you're assertion that you "cannot win your league in the first four rounds - you can only lose it there by taking stretches and risks." That said, you know what you're getting with C-Mart. He's a proven commodity. Barring an unforeseen injury, there's no risk with this pick.

Now I know the nay sayers out there are shaking their heads and mumbling about our sanity, but let's look at the facts. C-Mart may not be a flashy pick like Moss, but he's a reliable pick. He's been a steady, productive player every year, for the last eight years. Need proof? In 2001, Martin accumulated over 1,800 yards and had 10 scores. In 2000, Martin racked up over 1700 yards and had 11 scores. If that's not a safe, reliable pick, I don't know what is.

Take solace Duane. You did not "strike out" on this pick.



1.11 RB Priest Holmes

By Tony Holm of [The Prognosticator](#)

From John Hansen (1.07) on, folks have thought about Priest Holmes but always found one guy they thought was a little more of a secure pick. Around 1.11 there are still a few safer picks, but not at the

RB position. Like Duane, I don't subscribe to the stud RB theory but the requirement to start 2 RBs each week in FanEx does add a lot of value to a thin crop of RBs and Priest Holmes has fallen far enough.

Holmes had an incredible 2001 season, besting all RBs but Marshall Faulk in fantasy points. The debate this season is can he repeat that effort with an improved Kansas City receiving unit? I say no. I just don't see how he can once again rush for 1,555 yards and 8 TDs while hauling in 62 receptions for 614 yards and 2 TDs. Those are gaudy numbers to beat. But what I think Priest Holmes did show is that he is an extremely capable running back in the NFL. You don't have a 2,169 yard season with 10 TDs and label it a fluke.

The guy has demonstrated he can play at an elite level. There is still a lot of upside with this pick because if Holmes does play at the same level he did in 2001, I just nabbed the 2nd best RB in the draft as the 8th RB selected, that's solid value. If Holmes has a soft landing as I expect, then I probably ended up with the 8th best RB in the draft, at least I've got upside. This also is a relatively low injury risk pick as Holmes started every game last year, has low miles and is gaining the much loved "fantasy workhorse" moniker.



1.11 RB Priest Holmes

By Guest Hunter Catlett

This is almost too easy for me. I love this pick, and not just because I went to graduate school at the University of Texas. Last season, Priest Holmes was amazing. He put up over 2,000 yards from scrimmage and scored 10 TDs. And he did all of this despite Trent Green having an atrocious year and the Chiefs having virtually no receiving threat other than TE Tony Gonzalez.

Both the Chiefs and offense AND their defense should be improved this year, and that should only help Holmes. As Tony Holm mentioned when making the selection, this is a very good value pick even if Holmes does fall off some in production. Personally, I see very little drop-off for the Priest this

fall. The Chiefs struggled all of last year to find a team identity. It appeared they found that identity over the last five weeks of the season, when they went 3-2, with the two losses coming to Oakland and Seattle by a combined five points. During that stretch, Holmes AVERAGED 26 carries a game (never going below 23) and over 115 yards rushing per contest. He also averaged 4.4 receptions and almost 47 yards a game over that same span. Those numbers show a feature, workhorse back who is just a stud.

Holmes is a potential top-2 RB. At worst he is a top-5 back. Yet Tony gets him at the 11th slot and as the 8th RB selected. I don't care if you use brackets, buckets, VBD, BVD, tarot cards, whatever; this was an excellent pick with great upside.



1.12 RB Corey Dillon

By Emil Kadlec of [FF Pro Forecast](#)

With five straight 1,000-yard rushing seasons to his credit, Dillon will once again be the Bengals primary offensive weapon. I'm looking for an improved passing attack -- and the fact that Cincinnati will open camp with all 11 offensive starters already signed to contracts for the first time in ages -- to keep the former University of Washington standout among the league's elite running backs. ... Dillon, who underwent arthroscopic surgery on his left knee earlier this year, has already begun working out and is expected to be at full speed long before training camp opens.



1.12 RB Corey Dillon

By Guest Ryan Houston

While writing the analysis for Emil's pick it came clear to me that Emil had also taken Anthony Thomas with the following pick. Tell me you wouldn't love to have that combo of studs in your

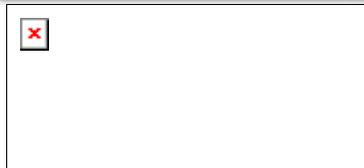
backfield! Personally, I rank Anthony Thomas and Eddie George ahead of Corey Dillon, but I still love the pick. The opportunity to pick two solid running back bookends at the end of the first round is always the way to go. Very Solid!

Some will probably argue that Emil should have went with Anthony Thomas or Corey Dillon and either Terrell Owens or Daunte Culpepper. I disagree. Considering that Garcia, Culpepper and McNabb are still on the board and the only WR taken in the first round was Moss, there is plenty of talent at those positions still available. If he had chosen not to select Thomas with the first pick in Round 2, his RB2 would have been somebody like Duce Staley who is not nearly as consistent as Dillon or Thomas.

In retrospect, Emil can look at adding solid WRs in the next rounds and a QB later in the draft. This was a great strategy at this stage of the draft. Furthermore, those that didn't draft RBs in the first round were clearly hoping that Emil wouldn't snag two at the top of the round. This causes those owners to take players they need higher than anticipated and causes better players to slip down the board. Something that Emil, clearly, wants to happen.

Overall, I think Emil did a great job and these picks clearly define why running backs are so important.

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