

Copy of QB Week 16

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Some of these write-ups are going to have quicker analysis than usual unless I feel I need to delve deeper. Merry Christmas, Kwanza, Festivus, and all that.

TIER	PLAYER	OPP	O/U	SPREAD	UPSIDE	FUNNEL	O-LINE CONCERNS	NOTES
1	Patrick Mahomes	ATL	54	-10.5	YES	PASS		I wouldn't imagine you sitting Mahomes. He is the league's QB2 for the year with 4462/36 passing and 287/2 rushing. He plays the pass funnel Falcons team that gave way to a quality Brady second half last week. Not that anything matters with Mahomes. He is your QB1 with upside.
1	Lamar Jackson	NYG	45	-11	YES			Jackson has finished (7), (16), (6), (1), (5) in his last five games and is a QB1 this week as they try to secure a playoff spot. They play the Giants, who will get Bradberry back this week, but it's still a plus draw for Jackson. He is a bonafide QB1 with upside against a 22nd ranked pass defense DVOA (according to FO).
1	Kyler Murray	SF	49	-5	YES			Murray looks back to himself as he went 406/3 and finished as the QB4 last week. He has only finished outside the top-12 three times this year, which could be due to injury. Murray is your QB1 this week with confidence.
1	Aaron Rodgers	TEN	56	-3.5	YES	PASS		Rodgers and Adams took a back seat to Aaron Jones last week as Rodgers finished with a mild 143 passing yards on 29 attempts. This week he gets a yard yielding Titans team ranked 30th in pass defense DVOA (according to FO), and they are a pass funnel squad. Rodgers is a QB1 with upside this week with confidence.
1	DeShaun Watson	CIN	46	-8	YES			Watson is the QB6 for the year with 4134/27 passing and 394/3 rushing. He gets a Cincy team coming off a big win against the Steelers, but who are ranked 27th in pass defense DVOA (according to FO). Watson is a bonafide QB1 with upside for your fantasy finals after he finished (12), (16), (10) against more challenging defensive squads.
1	Justin Herbert	DEN	49	-3		RUN		Laser-focused Herbert Hoover can quickly suck the life out of fantasy opponents, as he sits at QB9 for the year with 3781/27 passing and 199/4 rushing. He had tapered off a few games but finished as the QB7 last week against the Raiders with 314/2 and a rushing TD. The Broncos are a run funnel defense and rank 7th in pass defense DVOA (according to FO), but Herbert is a bonafide QB1 for the fantasy finals.
1	Jalen Hurts	@DAL	49.5	-2.5				Well, I guess Wentz won't be back anytime soon. Hurts lead all QB's last week in a high scoring game with 338/3 passing and 63/1 rushing. This game might not have the same potential, but Hurts has on QB1 treatment for your fantasy finals if you picked him up.
1	Josh Allen	@NE	46	-7	YES	RUN		Allen is the QB3 through the season with 4000/30 passing and 383/8 rushing. He is 4th in passing yards, air yards, and 6th in passing TDs. Allen has finished in the top-12 nine times this year and outside of it five times. He did have a lull against the Patriots in week eight as the QB19, so there is some worry, but you are starting Allen as a QB1 with upside.
1	Ryan Tannehill	@GB	56	3.5				Tannehill is the QB7 through the year with 3482/31 passing and 173/4 rushing. His last five fantasy finishes are (9), (8), (2), (17), (3). He is a shoo-in QB1 this week against the Packers in a possible high scoring game with a Vegas total of 56. Start Tannehill with confidence against a Packers team that is ranked 18th in pass defense DVOA (according to FO).
1	Tom Brady	@DET	54	-9.5	YES			Brady is the QB10 through the season with 3886/32 passing. He started slow last week but finished with 390/2 as the QB10. He gets a plus matchup here against the Lions, who are ranked 31st in pass defense DVOA (according to FO). Brady is a capable QB1 option with upside against the Lions, and his team are 9 point favorites.
1	Russell Wilson	LA	47.5	-1				As the Seahawks have become more of a balanced team, Wilson has tapered off and has finished (19), (11), (18), (20), (8), (28) in his last six games. He finished as the QB19 in the previous game with the Rams. This game sets up as a possible defensive matchup for the top of the division. Wilson is a QB2 this week.
2	Baker Mayfield	@NYJ	47.5	-9.5	YES	PASS		Mayfield has finished (11), (4), (3), (12) in his last four games and gets a pass funnel Jets squad this week that I don't imagine will keep pace as some of his previous opponents have unless they repeat what they did against the Rams. It could be a possible temper your expectations moment if this doesn't happen, but Mayfield, based on current return on investment, is a QB2 with upside against Gang Green.
2	Mitch Trubisky	@JAC	47	-7.5				Trubisky is a risky fantasy fill-in as he has boomed twice and busted twice the past two weeks. I would imagine, though, he is a quality start this week against the Jags, who are ranked 32nd in pass defense DVOA (according to FO), and if they lose, they should have a pretty good chance of locking in the #1 draft pick. They don't have much incentive to try to win. Trubisky is a high-end QB2 this week with some upside.

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2	Tua Tagovailoa	@LV	47.5	-3					The Dolphins enter a must-win game for them against a 21st ranked Raiders pass defense DVOA (according to FO). The Raiders can sometimes surprise you, but I would suspect that if all the Dolphins are back, which is trending in that direction, Tua and the gang should beat the -3 spread. Tua is a QB2 with some upside in this matchup with the Raiders, especially if the whole team is back. A downgrade if his receivers can't suit up.
2	Drew Brees	MIN	52	-7					Brees finished as the QB13 in his first game back from a rib injury with 234/3/1 against the Chiefs. Brees has broken the top-12 four times this year out of eleven games. The Saints are coming off of two losses, and this is a potential bounce-back spot for them against the Vikings if things go their way. They are 7 point favorites, and the Vikings are middling in pass defense and are ranked 20th in rush defense DVOA (according to FO). I would feel Brees is a capable high end QB2 to low-end QB1 with room for more if this game swings towards him getting TDs vs. Kamara rushing for them.
2	Matt Ryan	@KC	54	10.5					Ryan is the QB12 for the year with 4016/22 passing. He may be without Julio again, but if Julio returns, I would like his chances better as a QB1. People have been quick to write off Ryan, but he did better than expected last week against the Bucs, finishing as the QB8. He indeed may find himself in negative game script against this week with the Chiefs. Ryan is a boom or bust risky QB2/3 that may be worth starting, but I would look elsewhere in normal 12 man leagues. He would be a worthy 2QB league starter.
3	Kirk Cousins	@NO	52	7		YES			Cousins is the QB11 through the season, with 3569/29 receiving. He is 8th in passing TDs, 10th in deep ball attempts, and 13th passing yards with all-star receivers. His fantasy finishes in the last six games are (11), (4), (4), (11), (21), (14). The Vikings play the Saint this week, and both teams, are coming off of back-to-back losses. This game would be a potential bounce-back spot for the Saints, but the Vikings have nothing to lose here. I imagine the Saints were not expecting to lose to the Eagles but knew there would be a hard-fought battle with Mahomes. I suspect they come out on top here, and the Vegas line has them pinned as seven point favorites. Cousins could find himself in a negative game script, but I would think to shy away from him in redraft 12 man leagues this week as a streamer against a worthy Saints defense ranked 3rd in pass defense 2nd in rush defense DVOA (according to FO). Cousins O-line has attributed to 34 sacks, and the Saints have 40 sacks for the year, which is 6th in the league. With the Saints playing for pride and playoff positioning, I would venture to say Cousins is a middle of the pack QB2/QB3 this week.
3	Matthew Stafford	TB	54	9.5					It looks as if Stafford will be playing this week based on news reports. He finished as the QB24 and QB22 in the past two games against low ranked defenses and now gets a stout Bucs defense. I wouldn't play Stafford for your fantasy finals unless you are in a 2QB league. Stafford is a QB3/4 this week in the 20 range. He may overcome this another week removed from injury and in a negative game script as 9 point dogs.
4	Drew Lock	@LAC	49	3					I expected Lock to have a better output against the Bills, but that did not come to fruition as he finished QB30 for the week. Lock gets a plus matchup here but can't be trusted for your fantasy finals unless you are in a 2QB league. The Chargers middle in pass defense DVOA (according to FO).
4	Jared Goff	@SEA	47.5	1					Goff does well when you don't expect him to, and vice versa. This could be a week he does well, but I don't think it's worth investing your chips on. Seahawks have become a more balanced team as the year has gone on. The last time we expected Goff to do well against the Seahawks this year, he finished as the QB22. Goff is more than capable of more QB3/4 this week in a possible close defensive matchup.
4	Ben Roethlisberger	IND	45	1.5					Grandpa Ben has finished (14), (19), (14), (24), (33) in his last five games. The Steelers are coming off three losses straight after starting 11-0, so you would expect a bounce-back, but you were against the Bengals. The Colts have a stout defense, and this could be a defensive battle. Big Ben is a QB3 this week.
4	Philip Rivers	@PIT	45	-1.5					Rivers has tapered off as of recent, and the Steelers are still a good defense. Coming off three losses in a row, I would think something would give. River's last three fantasy finishes are (14), (14), (19). He is a QB3 this week against the Steelers, who are ranked 1st in pass defense DVOA (according to FO).
4	Cam Newton	BUF	46	7					Cam's last four fantasy finishes are (29), (8), (29), (29). He has a plus matchup with the Bills and was the QB17 against them last time. Cam is a QB3 for the fantasy finals.
4	Ryan Finley	@HOU	46	8					Finley looked like the best QB of all-time against the Steelers and finished as the QB15 for the week. This upcoming game with the Texans is a plus matchup for him, but I wouldn't imagine you trotting him out there in your fantasy finals. He is a sit unless you throw him in as a 2 QB league starter, in which he could see production against a yard yielding Texans team.
4	Derek Carr	MIA	47.5	3		RUN			Carr looks as if he will be playing this week, but unless you are in a 2QB league, I would shy away against a Fins 5th ranked pass defense DVOA (according to FO). Carr can perform in unlikely spots, but he can't be trusted for a playoff final inside 12-man regular leagues. He is a QB3 this week.
4	Teddy Bridgewater	@WAS	44.5	2					Washington is ranked 2nd in pass defense DVOA (according to FO) and held Wilson last week to QB28. This opposing defense is a downgrade for this team's offensive production, leaving Bridgewater as a QB4 to a sit this week in fantasy.

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4	Andy Dalton	PHI	49.5	2.5		PASS		Dalton has a plus matchup here against a pass funnel defense but is only a QB3 at best this week. His fantasy finishes are (20), (17), (20), (18) in his last four games.
B	Gardner Minshew	CHI	47	7.5			YES	There is uncertainty about who will be at the helm this week, but whoever is, I would bench them this week. The Jags have a chance at the number one overall pick, and they are playing a formidable defense this week.
B	Dwayne Haskins	CAR	44.5	-2				Haskins may try to save face from his maskless club extravaganza and ball out here against the Panthers. He hasn't finished higher than QB18, though, so he is a sit this week with production potential.
B	Colt McCoy	@BAL	45	11				Jones is practicing this week and may play, but neither starter is a viable option this week against the Ravens, who are trying to close in on a playoff spot.
B	C.J. Beathard	@ARI	49	5				Beathard is not a suitable play for your fantasy finals. If you got this far, I am sure you know that. Although he could get production in a possible negative game script, he isn't worth starting.
B	Sam Darnold	CLE	47.5	9.5			YES	Are you really needing to read about Sam Darnold for the fantasy finals? Get outta here! He is a serviceable 2QB league start, but with risk. He has finished outside the top-24 all year, but two games.