

1 - TE1 2 - TE2 3 - TE3 f - FRINGE B - BENCH

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	NOTES
1	Travis Kelce	ATL	54	-10.5	The tight end Contra cheat code. Play Kelce.
1	Darren Waller	MIA	47.5	3	I don't think you are sitting Waller, are you? He is a TE1.
1	Mark Andrews	NYG	45	-11	Andrew's last four fantasy finishes are (1), (3), (7), (5). With Bradberry probably back in the mix, passes may funnel towards Andrews. He is a bonafide TE1 for the fantasy finals.
1	Robert Tonyan	TEN	56	-3.5	Tonyan is a TE2 this week in a possible high scoring game with the Titans. His last four fantasy finishes are (2), (9), (5), (12).
2	TJ Hockenson	TB	54	9.5	Before last week's dud, Hockenson's previous three fantasy finishes were (7), (6), (3). He has been remarkably safe this year, except for two games. He did lose some targets to Jesse James and Hunter Bryant last week, but you are still starting Hockenson as a TE2.
2	Logan Thomas	CAR	44.5	-2	Haskins heavily used Thomas, who went 13/101/0 on 15 targets. He is a TE2 this week against a lower-ranked Panthers pass defense. His last four fantasy finishes are (10), (3), (14), (2). Thomas has five TDs on the year.
2	Mike Gesicki	@LV	47.5	-3	Gesicki has gotten in some practice time this week and looks as if he will suit up. If he does, he is a shoo-in TE2 against a yard yielding Raiders team.
2	Rob Gronkowski	@DET	54	-9.5	Gronk didn't do much last week, but he still received seven targets and two redzone looks. Gronk is a TE2 against the Lions in a plus matchup with a 31st ranked pass defense DVOA (according to FO).
2	Jonnu Smith	@GB	56	3.5	Smith will be an opportunity based TE2 this week in a possible high scoring game with the Packers. His last five fantasy finishes are (9), (9), (11), (33), (13).
2	George Kittle	@ARI	49	5	If Kittle returns, we don't know what type of playing time he will have. If you want to roll the dice, play him, and Reed becomes a sit. If Kittle doesn't play, Reed is a TE3 going up against a more uncompromising TE defense, and Dwelley is a sit. I would just pay attention to reports on Kittle to see how he looks or if he will be limited.
2	Jared Cook	MIN	52	-7	I was expecting more out of Cook in a potentially high-scoring affair with the Saints, but he didn't land his shot last week on a quality 82 air yards, which was the highest he had all season. He had five targets but went 2/29/0. Cook is a hard to trust boom or bust TD dependent tight end that could hit paydirt this Christmas against the Vikings. Treat him as a TE2/3 in this matchup, but I could understand it would be worrisome for you to start him out of the gate, and if he doesn't take off, you will feel crushed through the weekend. I wouldn't mind myself going back to the well if I were in the position. I will play him on a one-game DFS slate for Friday. It also bodes well for Cook that Thomas is out and possibly Tre'Quan Smith.
3	Noah Fant	@LAC	49	3	Fant had his best game of the year and 3rd TD of the year with 8/68/1 against Buffalo. He gets another prime spot here and has gotten targets all season but hasn't cashed in. Fant is a risky but viable TE3 to TE2 this week against the Chargers. The Chargers got lit up by Waller last week, but that's Waller; he can light up an icicle.
3	Hayden Hurst	@KC	54	10.5	Hurst was a safe tight end early in the season, then he and Ryan trailed off. Hurst's last six fantasy finishes are (6), (54), (17), (54), (51), (10). Last week he scored a TD, which he hadn't since week six. He holds a marginal 14.2% redzone share but does get a plus draw against the Chiefs this week, in which I imagine Ryan will have increased throwing attempts. Hurst is a risky TE2/3 that could pay off in the fantasy finals. Temper expectations if he doesn't hit.
3	Dallas Goedert	@DAL	49.5	-2.5	Ertz ran more routes than Goedert by three and got one less target 7 vs. 8. Goedert finished 4/39 on 83 air yards as the TE24. Ertz went 2/69/0 on 78 air yards as the TE20. This game sets up as a plus matchup for both tight ends. Goedert has finished as (19), (24) the past two games. They both have a chance for success, but I would drop Goedert to the TE3 range and Ertz up to fringe to TE3.
3	Eric Ebron	IND	45	1.5	Ebron took a big hit last week, and if he comes back this week, the Steelers have been struggling, but Ebron is still a TE2/3 in the matchup. It is hard to trust in a big game here against a stout Colts defense. I would temper expectations, especially if he is still banged up. If the reports are relatively clear that he is okay, then I would be less worried.
3	Evan Engram	@BAL	45	11	Engram has finished (24), (37), (21) in his last three games. He is a risky TE3 this week against the Ravens and more a sit for the fantasy finals.

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3	Cole Kmet	@JAC	47	-7.5	Kmet still played over Graham last week, although Graham saw an additional target. I am sure it's hard to trust in the fantasy finals, but Kmet would still get at least TE3 treatment in a possible plus draw with the Jags. Graham is a sit. The game may ride through Montgomery as it did last week.
3	Irv Smith Jr.	@NO	52	7	Rudolph was sidelined for Tuesday's practice, and it's uncertain if he will return this week. If he does, I would bank on sitting all three tight ends. If he doesn't play, Irv is a streaming option, but I wouldn't entirely trust him in your fantasy finals unless you have no other choice. Irv finished with 3/37/0 against the Bears in a negative game script, but 4/63/1 against the Bucs. Conklin was the TE18 and TE9 in the last two games and has played around 64% of the snaps. Irv is a TE3 to fringe start, and Conklin is a sit. Either has the potential to hit paydirt in a possible negative game script with the Saints. Conklin would be a contrarian one game DFS slate pick if you were to play both Brees and Cousins.
3	Austin Hooper	@NYJ	47.5	-9.5	Hooper could get work in this game and finished as the TE8 last week against the Giants. He would still be hard to trust as the Browns "were" primarily a run-heavy team, and if they get ahead against the Jets, they could taper Mayfield. Austin is a risky TE3 this week.
f	Zach Ertz	@DAL	49.5	-2.5	Ertz ran more routes than Goedert by three and got one less target 7 vs. 8. Goedert finished 4/39 on 83 air yards as the TE24. Ertz went 2/69/0 on 78 air yards as the TE20. This game sets up as a plus matchup for both tight ends. Goedert has finished as (19), (24) the past two games. They both have a chance for success, but I would drop Goedert to the TE3 range and Ertz up to fringe to TE3.
f	Jordan Reed	@ARI	49	5	If Kittle returns, we don't know what type of playing time he will have. If you want to roll the dice, play him, and Reed becomes a sit. If Kittle doesn't play, Reed is a TE3 going up against a more uncompromising TE defense, and Dwelley is a sit. I would just pay attention to reports on Kittle to see how he looks or if he will be limited.
f	Dan Arnold	SF	49	-5	Arnold has been getting decent work lately and had five targets for 3/54/0 and 85 air yards. He is a fringe start to TE3 this week against the Niners.
f	Dalton Schultz	PHI	49.5	2.5	Schultz is a sit for the fantasy playoffs.
B	Jimmy Graham	@JAC	47	-7.5	Kmet still played over Graham last week, although Graham saw an additional target. I am sure it's hard to trust in the fantasy finals, but Kmet would still get at least TE3 treatment in a possible plus draw with the Jags. Graham is a sit. The game may ride through Montgomery as it did last week.
B	Tyler Conklin	@NO	52	7	Rudolph was sidelined for Tuesday's practice, and it's uncertain if he will return this week. If he does, I would bank on sitting all three tight ends. If he doesn't play, Irv is a streaming option, but I wouldn't entirely trust him in your fantasy finals unless you have no other choice. Irv finished with 3/37/0 against the Bears in a negative game script, but 4/63/1 against the Bucs. Conklin was the TE18 and TE9 in the last two games and has played around 64% of the snaps. Irv is a TE3 to fringe start, and Conklin is a sit. Either has the potential to hit paydirt in a possible negative game script with the Saints. Conklin would be a contrarian one game DFS slate pick if you were to play both Brees and Cousins depending on his cost.
B	Dawson Knox	@NE	46	-7	Knox is a one-game DFS play, and if Kroft returns, he is too. They are not viable fantasy final tight ends.
B	Drew Sample	@HOU	46	8	Sample is not a viable starter for your fantasy playoffs but could get work.
B	Jordan Akins	CIN	46	-8	Akins nor Fells have warranted enough production to be considered fantasy starts.
B	Tyler Higbee	@SEA	47.5	1	Although Higbee scored last week, he isn't viable, nor is Everett for fantasy starts for your playoffs. They each have a chance at production here, but better for one game DFS plays.
B	Gerald Everett	@SEA	47.5	1	Although Higbee scored last week, he isn't viable, nor is Everett for fantasy starts for your playoffs. They each have a chance at production here, but better for one game DFS plays.
B	Trey Burton	@PIT	45	-1.5	This trio can't be trusted in a fantasy playoff game as they cannibalize each other's production.

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B	Jack Doyle	@PIT	45	-1.5	This trio can't be trusted in a fantasy playoff game as they cannibalize each other's production.
B	Mo Alie-Cox	@PIT	45	-1.5	This trio can't be trusted in a fantasy playoff game as they cannibalize each other's production.
B	Tyler Eifert	CHI	47	7.5	Eifert is not a viable fantasy play this week.
B	Ian Thomas	@WAS	44.5	2	Thomas isn't a viable play for the fantasy playoffs. However, he could get work if passes funnel his way.
B	Jacob Hollister	LA	47.5	-1	Olsen may return this week, and if it doesn't, it makes a murky situation even murkier. These tight ends are a sit for your fantasy playoffs.
B	Will Dissly	LA	47.5	-1	Olsen may return this week, and if it doesn't, it makes a murky situation even murkier. These tight ends are a sit for your fantasy playoffs.
B	Ross Dwelley	@ARI	49	5	If Kittle returns, we don't know what type of playing time he will have. If you want to roll the dice, play him, and Reed becomes a sit. If Kittle doesn't play, Reed is a TE3 going up against a more uncompromising TE defense, and Dwelley is a sit. I would just pay attention to reports on Kittle to see how he looks or if he will be limited.
B	Chris Herndon	CLE	47.5	9.5	Herndon is not a trustworthy fantasy start for your fantasy finals.
B	Darren Fells	CIN	46	-8	Akins nor Fells have warranted enough production to be considered fantasy starts.
B	Tyler Kroft	@NE	46	-7	Knox is a one-game DFS play, and if Kroft returns, he is too. They are not viable fantasy final tight ends.