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NEW TRANSMISSION FROM THE LEAGUE MANAGERS

*Consolation Playoffs to
Determine 2017 Draft
Order, Points Scored
and Record to
Determine Wild Card*

By PROF. DR. DOUGLEEM
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Contributing Editor

PARIS, FRANCE – Last Tuesday, August 30, Russian astronomers reported that they had detected an “interesting” radio signal that may possibly have come from the star system HD164595 in the Hercules constellation, creating some excitement and wild speculation in certain quarters. By Thursday, September 1, however, it had been determined that the Russians had merely mistaken a terrestrial signal for an extraterrestrial one, a mistake that everyone makes every now and

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Pictured: Ethnically diverse, non-threatening people who are probably celebrating the beginning of the fantasy football season.

THE SEASON BEGINS

League of Doom Season Six Kicks Off Tomorrow

After Thursday, There's No Going Back

By **ALCYONE BALFOUR**,
Contributor

THE LAND OF DOOM – This Thursday night the sonorous

tones of Al Michaels’ voice will usher the world into this, the sixth season of the League of Doom. The endless offseason waiting, the draft list tinkering, the cunning

maneuvers during the draft itself, and the subsequent lineup decisions will finally pay off.

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Afternoon Edition

Highs in the low 90s. Scattered thunderstorms possible. Lows overnight in the mid-70s, with scattered showers and thunderstorms. Winds light and variable. Chance of rain 50%. You will all die someday.

NEW TEAM NAMES

*All in Good Fun, Or
Sinister Codes?*

By **HAMRICK ZINK**,
Contributor

HIDING UNDER HIS DESK – There is an annual tradition among several owners in the League of Doom where these owners change the name, and sometimes the abbreviation, for their teams. Not every owner carries on this tradition every season; as of this writing, Chris,

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A rather hollow preview of the week one games. **PAGE TWO**

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Presenting some new advanced statistics designed to help evaluate your success as a fantasy owner. A new semi-regular column. **PAGE TWO**

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Tidbits of news that didn't fit anywhere else. A new weekly column. **PAGE TWO**

WEEK ONE PREVIEW

A Lot of Divisional Matchups, not a Lot to Write About

By ANEMONE STARDREAM-SMITH, Contributing Editor

OH, DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT WHERE – Well, dearies, it's that time again. Time for football.

It's been ever so long since the last football game, and I'm sure that you're all getting ants in the pants over the opportunity to watch grown men play a silly kid's game and get hurt, assuming they can even remember how to do it. Certainly all of you remember how to play fantasy football, or, if

you're new to this, you have a buddy who can help you out? The buddy system is important; without it, you'll probably all be abducted by strangers and end up in a refrigerator in pieces somewhere, trust me.

Sorry to paint such an ugly picture, sweet thing, but the world is a scary place. Do be careful.

This week, there are six divisional games, including one rivalry game. Plus, Eric gets a ninth chance to beat Sam M. and, for the first time in League of Doom history, brother will face off

against brother. You know how brothers are; it was inevitable. Boys will be boys and all. Unfortunately, no one has a win-loss record yet, so everyone will be fighting about nothing, but when you look at the big picture, the whole game is really about nothing anyway.

Game of the Week: Greg Grunberg (Jaime; 0-0) at Barkevious Liaisons (Colin; 0-0)

In Season Six's first Game of the Week, long-time rivals Jaime and Colin face off for the first time in the 2016 season. Their rivalry is one of the oldest in the league, and this year, they are back together in the same division again, after being separated the past two seasons. Hopefully no one's feelings get hurt! These Ninjas Division rivals

are 5-5 against each other all time, and play each other again in week 11. In a battle between top-ranked receivers Antonio Brown and Odell Beckham Jr., is Doug Martin going to make the difference?

Dick Grayson's Bitches (Stef; 0-0) at Schrödinger's Cats (Ned; 0-0)

There isn't much exciting about this Pirates Division game. Ned leads the series all-time, 4-0, so this could be the first time that Stef gets a win against her divisional foe. Both teams are without some of their best players due to suspension (Stef is missing Tom Brady, and Ned is missing Le'Veon Bell), but this *is* still a divisional game, so it should still matter to somebody.

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THE QUICK COUNT: WEEK ONE

By MARY ELLEN JONES, Intern

Starting this week, we are introducing "The Quick Count," a weekly column that will offer news tidbits that could be of interest but aren't worth writing whole articles about. Here's The Quick Count for week one:

- The League Managers adjusted the schedule for Week 10, which They had apparently not updated correctly after the league expansion. Sorry about that, everyone!
- Chris did what he could about his tight end problem. He put **Tyler Eifert**, Cin TE in his IR slot and added **Crockett Gillmore**, Bal TE. Later, he dropped **Ladarius Green**, Pit TE, and added **Dennis Pitta**, Bal TE. He should probably pay attention to injuries when drafting next season, but either Gillmore or Pitta is *bound* to be pretty good!
- Stef saw **Bruce Ellington**, SF WR, placed on IR with a return designation, so she placed him in her IR slot and picked up **Breshad Perriman**, Bal WR. Hey, if she's lucky, maybe Perriman will turn out to be really good!

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HIDDEN YARDAGE: INTRODUCING NEW STATS

New Statistics to Be Published Weekly

By SYNERGY COCHRAN, Contributor

THE PLACE WHERE STATS COME FROM – Welcome to "Hidden Yardage," our new statistics-oriented column. Every so often, when we feel that there are some interesting statistics to break down, we will publish a new Hidden Yardage column. This week, we are introducing some new statistics that we will track throughout the season.

These new statistics are

designed to give owners a better picture of how they are actually doing than merely wins, losses, and points scored provides. They will be published each week in the *Times-Chronicle Picayune*. Here is an explanation of each, some of which should be familiar:

Rank: The team's current rank in the league overall.

Record: The team's record so far. Nothing new to see here.

Win Percentage (W%): The percentage of games played that the team won. For example, if a

team has won three out of five games, its win percentage would be .600.

Comebacks (CMBCK): The number of games that the team won despite trailing before the Monday Night Football game.

Points For (PF): The total points that the team has scored.

Points Against (PA): The total points that the team's opponents' have scored against it.

Efficiency (Eff): The percentage of possible points scored that the team has actually scored. For example, let's say that Team A scored 90 points one week. Its starting quarterback scored 10 points. Its backup quarterback scored 20 points. If Team A had started the backup quarterback, it would have scored 100 points, so

its Efficiency rating is 90%. This is a cumulative rating showing how efficient the team has been over the entire season. This should be a fairly reasonable measure of how good the owner is at figuring out who to start each week, possibly the most valuable fantasy football skill.

Weekly Efficiency (W-Eff): The team's efficiency rating in the most recent game.

Expected Wins (ExW): The number of games that the team would have won if its opponents had all been "average"; that is, had all scored the mean Adj. PF for the league (see below). If this number is below the team's actual wins, then that indicates that the team has

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THE SEASON BEGINS

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All of America will tune in as the Peyton Manning-less Denver Broncos lose pathetically in a Super Bowl rematch against the Carolina Panthers. But what really matters is the effect the game will have on the League of Doom, where over half of the owners have either a Bronco or Panther on their roster.

As the rosters lock at 8:30 PM, and every *true* American stands for the politically-motivated playing of the national anthem of a country that mistreats African Americans and members of the LGBT community because that is their unquestionable patriotic duty and to not do so is to say that they hate America, and they might as well move to some Communist country like Canada, owners around the league will suddenly remember that they forgot to move such-and-so into their starting lineup, and watch miserably as a player racks up useless points on their bench.

Over the next 16 weeks, all of the questions that accumulated during the offseason will finally be answered.

Can Other Sam repeat as league champion for the first time since Ned did it back in 2011-2012, and only the second time ever? Can, in fact, Other Sam beat Sam M. and

be known simply as Sam, and not Other Sam?

Will the defensive scoring satisfy the League Managers such that, for what feels like the first time ever, They don't mess with it next season? Will the league expansion and tightening of roster maximums result in greater competition, or just more bottom-feeder owners and no real change to the terrible options available in free agency? Will the reduction in playoff teams create more excitement at the end of the season, or less?

Will the owners even pay attention at the end of the season to find out the answers to these questions? Will people regularly engage in smack talk throughout

Over the next 16 weeks, all of the questions that accumulated during the offseason will finally be answered.

the season, or is 16 weeks too long to ask them to pay attention? Are all of the owners going to be in serious contention for the Sir Not Appearing in This Film trophy as soon as they start losing? Will everyone try to make trades this year, or will the League Managers have to set waiver wire transaction limits?

Are any of the new owners going to be the first expansion team to make the playoffs? Are Sam M. or Zakk, the only Original Ten owners to never make the Gumby Bowl, going to finally reach that lofty height?

Will the truth about any of Hamrick Zink's conspiracy theories

be revealed? Was the draft order fixed? Are their improprieties in the proxy draft? Is there, in fact, some sort of clandestine Resistance movement fighting against the League Managers? What other paranoid ideas will Zink speculate wildly about?

All this and more will be revealed as the season progresses.

As is the case at this point every year, the league is currently balanced, with every owner (except Eric, obviously) possessing an equal chance of winning the Gumby Bowl. This is the moment when everyone (except Eric, naturally) has the same amount of hope, the same lofty expectations of success for the season. It just gets worse from here on out, as a handful of owners – probably Ned, Colin, Other Sam, and either Jason, Meredith, or Sam M., if history holds true – dominate the standings while everyone else has a miserable time. It is likely that even the dominant owners will be pretty unhappy about the whole thing, as they will be competing with each other and will have to deal with injuries and disappointments of their own.

So you should enjoy this while you still can. Some of you have already run into difficulties (like injured players and roster cuts), and the season hasn't even really begun. Squeeze every last ounce of happiness that you can out of your team while there's still time before everything turns, as it inevitably will, to desolation and grief. This is, after all, the League of Doom. ★

NEW TRANSMISSIONS FROM THE LEAGUE MANAGERS

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then, so you can't really hold it against them. At that point, everyone stopped caring.

But they shouldn't have, because the signal, while of terrestrial origin, turns out to have been an encrypted message from the League Managers that was broadcast in 2015, and has only recently been noticed. Once the true source of the signal was determined, Claudio Maccone, chair of the International Academy of Astronautics Permanent SETI Committee, provided the encrypted data to the Department of Esoteric Studies at the École Normale Supérieure. It was quickly deciphered, and the gist of the transmission is provided herein.

The League Managers have decided to use the results of the Consolation Ladder to determine the draft order next season. For those who are unaware, while the playoff teams struggle to achieve the glory that is the Gumby, teams that did not make the playoffs still play in weeks 15 and 16. These games are known as the

Consolation Ladder. Teams knocked out of the running for the Gumby also play, in the Winner's Consolation Ladder.

In an attempt to get everyone to be a little more engaged next year, and to make the fantasy season more meaningful for those who are not competing for the Gumby, the League Managers have decided to tie the following season's draft order to the results of the Consolation Ladder games.

The winner of the Consolation Ladder will get to *choose* where they want to pick in the 2017 draft order. The second-ranked Consolation Ladder owner will get to choose where they want to pick next, the third-ranked will get to choose their pick next, and

The winner of the Consolation Ladder will get to choose where they want to pick in the 2017 draft order.

so on, followed by the Winner's Consolation Ladder owners, again choosing in order from highest ranked to lowest, and then the Gumby Bowl owners. However, as additional punishment for playing very badly, the Race to the Bottom™ "Winner" will automatically get the very last available draft pick position. It should be noted that the draft will still snake.

By way of illustration, the 12 owners that played last season would have chosen their picks in the following order based on their playoff results:

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1. Eric (Consolation Ladder champion)
2. Jason
3. Ned
4. Zakk
5. Sam M.
6. Meredith (Winner's Consolation Ladder champion)
7. Jaime
8. Colin
9. Will
10. Sam D. (Gumby Bowl champion)
11. Chris (Gumby Bowl runner-up)
12. Stef (Race to the Bottom™ "Winner")

This system should create incentive to play a little harder in the postseason, and it will also inject some strategy into when owners decide they want to pick. Is it better to select first, and have to wait 26 picks between selections before making back-to-back picks? Is it better to select seventh or eighth, meaning you would not necessarily get the very top tier players, but you would not have to wait as long between picks? Different owners will have different approaches to selecting their draft spots.

In addition, the League Managers have made a decision about how to determine which team will secure the wild card slot. The winners of each division, regardless of points scored, overall record, or any other factors, will each get one spot in the playoffs, but a fourth team – a wild card team – will get a fourth spot.

This wild card spot will go to the non-division-winning team with the most points scored that also has a winning record. If, after the division winners, the next highest-scoring team has a *losing* record, that team, and any other high-scoring team with a losing record, will be skipped until a winning team is available.

Last year, for example, the highest-scoring non-division-winner with a winning record was Meredith, who had the fourth-most points and tied for the best record, at 9-4. It is mathematically impossible for a team with a losing record to make the playoffs in this manner.

That is the essence of the League Managers' transmission. Some untranslatable words and sounds have been omitted, the transmission has been cleaned up for clarity and grammar purposes (the original grammatical structures drove some of the translators completely mad), and a discussion of the absurd, tedious, and meaningless nature of existence has been excised due to space constraints.

Any owners who do not like these new directives have been instructed to "shove it." ★

NEW TEAM NAMES

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Meredith, Other Sam, Stef, and Will have all kept their old names. But a majority of the owners have changed their team names this year, and, of course, the two new owners have wholly new names.

Why is this done? Why change a perfectly good team name? Is this simply about having fun and trying to be entertaining? Is it the symbolic turning over of a new leaf? Or is something much more ominous afoot?

What follows is a team-by-team look at the new names, along with an analysis and investigation into their hidden meanings and possible malevolent significance.

Colin: Barkevious Liaisons (KEKE)

This year, Colin's team name references both Barkevious Mingo, the absurdly-named outside linebacker for the New England Patriots, and *Dangerous Liaisons*, the Academy Award winning 1988 film based on the Christopher Hampton play *Les liaisons dangereuses*, itself based on the 18th century novel *Les Liaisons dangereuses*. The acronym, "KEKE," is Barkevious Mingo's nickname. Of course, it goes

without saying that the original novel, scandalous for its depictions of seduction, revenge, and human cruelty, was a subversive critique of the debauched libertinism practiced by the Ancien Régime that ruled France at the time of its publication. The novel presaged the ideological upheaval of the French Revolution, which occurred just seven years after it was released. Is Colin trying to subtly draw attention to the corrupt decadence exhibited by the League Managers? Is he, perhaps, making a clandestine call for their overthrow? The abbreviation, "keke," is an expression of happiness, originating with a Romanization of the Korean onomatopoeia for laughter. It

Is Colin trying to subtly draw attention to the corrupt decadence exhibited by the League Managers?

would seem that, whatever the message Colin has hidden in his team name is, it brings him significant mirth.

Eric: Sparks RAWLS DEEP! (DEEP)

Eric's team name appears to be some sort of reference to Thomas Rawls, Sea RB, his top-drafted running back. His team logo is likely relevant, as well; it is a depiction of the eponymous "star" of the popular children's television show, *Thomas the Tank Engine*, with Thomas Rawls' face and number transposed atop the innocent train, while the train engine itself is integrated into the

Seattle Seahawks' pregame "Here Comes the Boom" festivities. Moreover, there is a nod to the popular term "roll deep," which refers to traveling in force, which is repeated in the team abbreviation, "DEEP." Then there is the "Sparks" bit, which is a rather unclear reference, perhaps to multiplatinum recording artist Jordin Sparks, whose father, Phillippi Sparks, played cornerback for nine years with the New York Giants and Dallas Cowboys. One should not overlook the fact that the team name is also an anagram for "darker slaps pews," however. Obviously, this is a coded admission of support for the dark forces that back the League Managers with almost religious fervor and are more than willing to strike down all those who oppose Them.

Jaime: Greg Grunberg (GREG)

There can be no doubt that Jaime's team is named after Greg Grunberg, prolific actor and childhood friend of J.J. Abrams. Grunberg has appeared in such J.J. Abrams-related films and television series as *Felicity*, *Alias*, *Mission: Impossible III*, *Star Trek*, *Lost*, *Super 8*, and *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*. He has also appeared in such J.J. Abrams-unrelated films and television series as *Heroes*, *Masters of Sex*, *Psych*, *Geeking Out*, and the criminally underrated *Big Ass Spider!* In paying homage to Grunberg, is Jaime indicating

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that, as Grunberg is friends with Abrams, she is allied with the League Managers? Grunberg appears to be everywhere, even if he is hidden from view, like he was in *Star Trek*. The League Managers' agents are also said to be everywhere, and yet similarly undetectable. Their agents may, in fact, be watching you right now; They may even have recruited your loved ones.

Jason: Make Doom Great Again (JV)

Jason's team name is clearly a nod to Donald Trump's campaign slogan, "Make American Great Again." (The abbreviation refers to "Jason Vicks," and is unchanged.) Jason's logo is a GIF which humorously mocks Trump's campaign, as well. Scratch beneath the surface, though, and it becomes apparent that Jason is not just making a comical jest about a topical subject. The name is a cry for the return to the old days of the League of Doom, when the League Managers were less malicious and meddling. Like Trump, perhaps Jason is the charismatic outsider needed to lead the League of Doom into a brave new future where the League Managers have less tyrannical influence over the league. Perhaps Jason is the secret leader of the Resistance against the League Managers?

Ned: Schrödinger's Cats (MEOW)

Initially, Ned's new team name, Schrödinger's Cats, looks like it's a reference to Erwin Schrödinger's famous thought experiment dealing with the Copenhagen interpretation of quantum mechanics. The Copenhagen interpretation is, along with the many-worlds interpretation, one of the prevailing interpretations of quantum mechanics. As is well known, the Copenhagen interpretation posits that the interaction of an observer external to a quantum system causes wavefunction collapse, while the many-worlds interpretation holds that there is a universal wavefunction that obeys the same deterministic laws at all times, thus denying the actuality of wavefunction collapse and suggesting that all possible alternate timelines are real. Ned is also known to like cats, hence the "MEOW" abbreviation. But what if these seemingly innocent references are, like the feline, duplicitous in nature? Adherence to rigorous science would run counter to the religious zeal surrounding the League Managers, and a reference to the multiple competing interpretations of quantum mechanics might be a veiled suggestion that an alternative to the League Managers' regime is possible. Does Ned support the Resistance?

Sam M.: Fucking Magical (MGC)

Sam's team name, logo, and persona thus far in the season all indicate an overly-optimistic, naïve, innocent, and joyful entity not unlike the main characters in Hasbro's *My Little Pony* franchise. It would appear that Sam is engaged in some fun and light-hearted 1980s nostalgia. However, Hasbro's cash cow is nothing more than a cynical attempt to squeeze as much money as possible from preteen girls (and, lately, creepy middle-aged men). In fact, the animated series was only created in order to sell more of the toys. All of this is couched in seemingly harmless, fantastical, friendship-oriented adventures, and framed as a major cultural touchstone. In referring to the adventures of Twilight Sparkle and her pony friends, Sam may be indicating his intention to defeat Other Sam once and for all, just as Twilight Sparkle was able to turn the villainous Nightmare Moon back into the benevolent Princess Luna through the use of friendship magic. (It should be noted that Other Sam's team is named Moon Knights, an uncanny resemblance to "Nightmare Moon.") However, Sam could *also* be signaling his support for the corrupted status quo of the League Managers' rule by referencing the seemingly sweet yet secretly avaricious *My Little Pony* franchise and its emphasis on conformity and nonviolence. His magic, steeped in superstition, just like the League Managers, is also at direct odds to Ned's science, which further indicates a rejection of the Resistance.

Zakk: Shake It Up (ARGH)

At first glance, Zakk's team name, when combined with his logo, which depicts Doc Brown presenting a shaking Marty McFly with a futuristic edition of *USA Today*, the headline of which reads "Parkinsons [sic]: Still No Cure Found," appears to be nothing more than a mean-spirited Parkinson's disease joke. (The "Argh" abbreviation remains unchanged from last year.) It doesn't take much, though, to realize that Zakk is using this seemingly-offensive joke as a way to distract from his true message of support for the reform of the League of Doom. "Shake it up," indeed. Zakk, of course, is in the same division as Colin and Jason. It is more than probable that the three of them are at the heart of the Resistance, and that they must conceal their seditious activities from the watchful, Panopticon-like gaze of division-mate Jaime's team, Greg Grunberg.

There may also be hidden significance in the team names selected by the two new owners.

Bobby: Doom Did Nothing Wrong (DDNW)

Bobby's team name, Doom Did Nothing Wrong, is a rather meta-referential response to Jason's team name, Make Doom Great Again. On the one hand, this could be just a simple, fun ribbing at Jason's expense; on the other, it may also be a subtle rejection of Donald Trump and his political

ideas. However, as with all these other names, clearly something sinister is going on here. The abbreviation, "DDNW," is obviously an acronym for "Doom Directors Nice, Wonderful," demonstrating Bobby's fierce support for the League Managers. When taken another way, the team name itself is a bald and brazen show of support for the continuation of the League of Doom as it is currently; that is to say, run by the League Managers and uncompromised by the Resistance. Surely it is no coincidence that the League Managers were so keen on adding Bobby to the League this year, regardless of the chaos and upheaval it may have caused, for he is obviously one of Their most loyal and reliable agents.

Emily: My Ball Zach Ertz (ZERT)

Emily is a fan of the Philadelphia Eagles, and Zach Ertz is their starting tight end. Her team name is a rather off-color joke that celebrates her fandom. There does not appear to be any hidden message here. (Fun fact: Zach Ertz is engaged to Julie Johnston, defender for the Women's World Cup champion United States women's national soccer team.)

More on the clandestine Resistance and the League Managers' secretive counterinsurgency will be published as soon as it is uncovered. ★

WEEK ONE PREVIEW

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Every game is special in its own way. I'd like to point out that the header is "Bitches at Cats," which is inappropriate. They play again in week 13.

Trailer Park Wolf Spirit (Will; 0-0) at Doom Did Nothing Wrong (Bobby; 0-0)

Bobby's first ever League of Doom game is a Pirates Division face off against his older brother. I really hope that they're still on speaking terms after the game; you just hate to see family fight. Are mean old Adrian Peterson's aging, child-beating legs going to run all over Will and his rookie running back, Ezekiel Elliott? These two play again in week eight.

My Ball Zach Ertz (Emily; 0-0) at Moon Knights (Other Sam; 0-0)

In the other first-time game this week, Emily faces reigning league champ Other Sam in a Zombies Division showdown. Unfortunately for Emily, a bunch of her players are recovering from boo-boos, including Jamaal Charles, A.J. Green, Jordan Matthews, LeSean McCoy, and Kendall Wright. Is her banged-up roster going to be able to overcome Other Sam, whose roster includes young men like Aaron Rodgers, Allen Robinson, Larry Fitzgerald, and Greg Olsen? Their

follow-up game will be in week nine.

Death Valley Quix Draw (Chris; 0-0) at Weasleys' Wizard Wheezes (Meredith; 0-0)

This is the only inter-divisional game this week. Chris leads the series, such as it is, against Meredith, 2-1. Will Chris' unconventional strategy of drafting David Johnson and a whole kitten caboodle of injured players pay off, or will Meredith's reliable, proven strategy of drafting top-ten players across her roster, including DeVonta Freeman, Julio Jones, Travis Kelce, and the Panthers' D, prevail?

Sparks RAWLS DEEP! (Eric; 0-0) at Fucking Magical (Sam M.; 0-0)

This is the ninth time that these Zombies Division opponents will face off. (The tenth time will be in week 13.) Is nine times the charm for Eric? Sam has won all eight previous matchups. You could argue that Eric has the more well-stocked roster, with Drewseph Brees and The Gronk, so maybe things will finally go his way! Hamrick Zink wanted me to point out that Sam proxy drafted for Eric, so he thinks that Sam was likely planning out how to beat Eric in week one when he made the draft choices. That Hamrick, he needs to get out and play with his friends more.

Make Doom Great Against (Jason; 0-0) at Shake It Up

(Zakk; 0-0)

On paper, Jason and Zakk are kind of Ninjas Division rivals, with Jason leading the series 5-4. However, there really hasn't been a consistent rivalry or anything here. There aren't very many memorable games, the owners don't seem to hate each other, and everyone is friends, which is nice. Will Jason's team, led by Russell Wilson, defeat Zakk's team, led by Cam Newton, to retain the series lead, or will Zakk tie it up? Honestly, I don't want to see any rivalries; people should get along, not fight. I am going to knock on wood and hope they are still friends when they play again in week 11.

And that's it, your week one preview. Not the most thrilling, but that's OK; it's good to just relax every once in a while. Don't forget to dress in layers and eat a hearty breakfast. ★

HIDDEN YARDAGE: INTRODUCING NEW STATS

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benefited from poor play by its opponents; if this number is above the team's actual wins, then that means that the team's record has been hurt by above-average opposition. To some extent, this can be seen as a measure of luck.

Points For Per Game (PF/G):

The mean number of points the team scored per game.

Median Points For (MPF):

The median number of points the team scores per game. If this number is higher than PF/G, then it indicates that the team has had a few high-scoring outlier games, and generally scores lower than its PF/G would suggest. If this number is lower than PF/G, it indicates the reverse: a few low-scoring outliers have skewed the mean, and the team will typically score higher than its PF/G would suggest.

Adjusted Points For (Adj. PF):

The mean number of points the team scored per game with outlier games removed. This should be a more realistic measure of what the team will score in future weeks. For example, if a team had scored 50, 75, 80, 80, 85, 90, and 150 points, Adj. PF would omit the 50-point game and the 150-point game. For the sake of comparison, this example team would have a PF/G of 87.1, an MPF of 80, and an Adj. PF of 82. What this tells us is that, while the team scored an average of 87.1 points every week (PF/G 87.1), it has some high-scoring outliers that indicate it usually scores below the average (MPF 80), and probably scores closer to around 82 points every week (Adj. PF 82). For those who are interested and understand this kind of thing, Adj. PF eliminates outliers that fall above 10% over the third quartile of the team's points per week and that fall below 10% under the first

quartile of the team's points per week.

Points For Above Baseline (PFAB):

The number of points above or below the baseline the team scores per game. The Baseline is calculated by taking the mean Adj. PF for the league. If this number is positive, it indicates that the team is scoring higher than the league overall, and if this is number is negative, it shows that the team is scoring lower than the league overall.

Consistency (Cons):

A ranking of how consistent the team is. The lower the number, the more consistent the team. A highly consistent team scores more predictably every week, while a less consistent team is hard to predict – almost like a league wild card, if you will. For people who understand statistics, this is just a ranking of each team's standard deviation in PF/G.

Points Against Per Game (PA/G):

The mean number of points per game the team's opponents' have scored against it.

Future Schedule Difficulty (Diff.):

The difficulty of the team's future scheduled, as determined by the number of points its' future opponents have scored. A lower number means a harder schedule for the remainder of the season. For the curious, based on last year's scoring (and extrapolating the new owners' scoring based on last year's average), the schedule difficulties going into the season,

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HIDDEN YARDAGE: INTRODUCING NEW STATS

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ranked from hardest to easiest, are as follows:

1. (tie) Jason, Ned
3. Sam Manleigh
4. Stef
5. (tie) Eric, Zakk
7. Emily
8. Will
9. Colin
10. Jaime
11. Meredith
12. Bobby
13. (tie) Chris, Sam

D.

Of course, future schedule difficulty will be recalculated after week one, and it will become increasingly accurate as the season progresses and it becomes clearer how each team is doing.

Hopefully these new statistics prove useful to you when you are evaluating your team's performance. If you have any suggestions regarding statistics that might be useful to track, or questions about these new statistics, please let us know. ★

THE QUICK COUNT: WEEK ONE

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- The League Managers messed with the scoring system a whole bunch on Friday evening, and then undid everything that They had done. Weird, huh?
- The Ravens cut **Justin Forsett**, Bal RB, in a surprise move

Saturday. Bummer for Stef – she's lucky he was just her third running back! Stef dropped Forsett and picked up his main backup, **Terrance West**, Bal RB.

- But then, surprise! The Ravens re-signed **Justin Forsett**, Bal RB. Oh no! Chris picked up Forsett, and dropped **Kenneth Dixon**, Bal RB, who Chris had drafted despite knowing darn well that Dixon was hurt. Hey, it seems like things are already looking better for Chris. Sorry, Stef!

- The Chicago Bears cut Colin's kicker, **Robbie Gould**, FA K. Oh no, Colin! Better find a new kicker!
- The Dallas Cowboys picked up **Mark Sanchez**, Dal QB, who had been dropped by the Denver Broncos. Is the Sanchez going to challenge **Dak Prescott**, Dal QB, for the starting spot in the absence of **Tony Romo**, Dal QB? Almost certainly not, but Will should probably pay attention!
- **Teddy Bridgewater**, Min QB, hurt his knee in practice, and has been put on IR. Poor guy!

So the Vikings traded first- and fourth-round picks to the Eagles to get **Sam Bradford**, Min QB! What?! Now rookie **Carson Wentz**, Phi QB, is starting for the Eagles, and Bradford will compete with **Shaun Hill**, Min QB, for the starting spot in Minnesota. Wild stuff! No one had any of these guys on their team, but anyone with any Eagles or Vikings should watch out!

- **Tom Brady**, NE QB, is still suspended, and he got a silly 90s-style haircut. What was he thinking?! ★

Weekly Filler Crossword Puzzle

Across

3. A long, cylindrical, often slender piece of wood, metal, or other materials.
5. Used for opening doors and drawers.
6. A person who is part of a society, party, or community.
8. A puncture made by a needle.
10. A limbless, scaly, elongated reptile.
11. Useless, discarded material.
13. Any instrument for performing mechanical operations.
14. A common nickname for William.
16. A male chicken.

Down

1. A spectacularly bad or embarrassing mistake.
2. A bird's bill.
4. The first Bishop of Rome.
7. The state a boy reaches when he turns 18.
9. Round and pleasantly plump.
10. A ray of light.
12. A common nickname for Richard.
15. You string your fishing line onto this.

