2016 NFL Playoff Cheat Sheet

Updated: 1/3/17

The following rankings are generic for the entire post-season and significantly consider our projected number of games each team will play in the 2016 playoffs. Players marked as having upside or downside have more upside or downside to finish higher or lower than their current positions.

Rank	Quarterbacks	Team	Projected # of Games	Comments
1	Tom Brady	NE	3	Safest player on the board in weaker AFC.
2	Dak Prescott	DAL	3	We give Dallas a slight edge to advance to SB so he checks in high.
3	Ben Roethlisberger	PIT	3	Very good option as we have them playing 3 games so main concern is road woes.
4	Aaron Rodgers	GB	2	Playing out of his mind but team overall is shaky and we project that to prevent 3+ games
5	Matt Ryan	ATL	2	Could easily play 3+ games, so a fine pick in great offense, but defense prevents higher ranking.
6	Russell Wilson	SEA	2	Road woes an shakier D a concern but they could get hot so a solid option.
7	Eli Manning	NYG	1	Could catch fire in playoffs as he does and D is great, but 2016 body of work isn't very good.
8	Matthew Stafford	DET	1	Capable of leading an upset but production has been shaky and we do project only 1 game.
9	Alex Smith	KC	1	KC a wildcard and could play 2 or more games but we do project only 1 and production so-so.
10	Brock Osweiler	HOU	2	He's no lock to start but it was trending that way as of Tue, but if they win he's no lock to start Div round.
11	Matt More	MIA	1	Clearly one of the worst options on the board, but slight edge over McGloin.
12	Connor Cook	OAK	1	Cook as of Tuesday was being prepped to start, so not looking good for Matt McGloin
Rank	**Running Backs**	**Team**	**Projected # of Games**	**Comments**
1	Le'Veon Bell	PIT	3	We have Pit playing 3 games and we give him edge over Zeke based on receiving.
2	Ezekiel Elliott	DAL	3	Dallas' home field and solid D prompt us to project 3 games, plus he's now a proven stud.
3	LeGarrette Blount	NE	3	A little scary to rank really high but we have project 3 games and he's a TD machine.
4	Devonta Freeman	ATL	2	Could have more upside than Blount, but also splits w/ Coleman and we do project only 2 games.
5	Ty Montgomery	GB	2	A wildcard but he's their best option and should be good for 15 touches/game for them.
6	Tevin Coleman	ATL	2	Some downside if you take him this high, but also upside and big upside if they play 3+ games.
7	Dion Lewis	NE	3	His workload has been promising last 2-3 weeks and while he's no lock, appealing on Pats.
8	Lamar Miller	HOU	2	We'd think ankle will be better after 2 games off and do project Hou to play 2 games.
9	James White	NE	3	Still has a larger role as pass-catching specialist and gets most targets in this backfield.
10	Latavius Murray	OAK	1	Not even a lock to produce in WC round but upside if they manage to win and play 2 or more games.
11	Thomas Rawls	SEA	2	He's looked bad and hasn't produced but we do have Sea playing 2 and they could get on a run.
12	Spencer Ware	KC	1	Banged up Week 17 and we project for only 1, but upside as they could easily get 2 or more games.
13	Alex Collins	SEA	2	Not a sure thing, but some upside for sure as he's been better and more productive than Rawls.
14	Rashad Jennings	NYG	1	May not even be #1 RB for playoffs, but the veteran will be heavily involved as runner/receiver.
15	Paul Perkins	NYG	1	Has ascended last 4-5 weeks and has large role, but Jennings is more experienced and in the mix.
16	Jay Ajayi	MIA	1	Not 100% and might come up small in one–and-done situation, but he's had a great year.
17	Zach Zenner	DET	1	Has come on strong down stretch but we have them in only 1 game and not a strong commitment to him.
18	C.J. Prosise	SEA	2	Status for playoffs unknown as of publication, but we love him and outside chance he can play vey soon.
19	Christine Michael	GB	2	Will need GB to play 2-3 games to have a chance but worth a shot this low on the RB list.
20	Darren McFadden	DAL	3	Sneaky pick as he could get 7-9 touches a game and 1-2 catches a game on team we have playing 3 games.
21	Charcandrick West	KC	1	Bad season but produced Week 17 and Ware banged up so on the radar as a viable hail mary pick.
22	Aaron Ripkowski	GB	2	He could do nothing but he's a TD vulture and they used him a lot more in Week 17, so has a chance.
23	Alfred Blue	HOU	2	Miller should be okay but he's been banged up and Blue is clearly the replacement.
24	Alfred Morris	DAL	3	Lost his spot to McFadden so needs a Zeke injury to have a chance.
25	DeAngelo Williams	PIT	3	They haven't used him much at all when Bell's been healthy but worth a look this low down the list.
26	James Starks	GB	2	He's been dead and could stay dead but he is a vet so they could revisit him if he's healthy.
27	Jalen Richard	OAK	1	We have them playing only 1 game but he's capable of popping off a big play at least.
28	DeAndre Washington	OAK	1	Has emerged late in season and viable this deep, but 1 of 3 RBs in mix for team we have in only 1 game.
29	Dwayne Washington	DET	1	It's been almost all Zenner down the stretch so he's a low-end option all the way.
30	Damien Williams	MIA	1	Has scored some short TDs this year so if you have him you're just for a cheapie score and that's it.
31	Kenyan Drake	MIA	1	Major long-shot, but he can take 1 touch a long way at least.
32	Bobby Rainey	NYG	1	He does get some snaps and touches here and there at least.
33	Jonathan Grimes	HOU	2	Has been on the field down the stretch, but not much in terms of touches.
34	Akeem Hunt	HOU	2	He could be worthless if Miller is okay.
35	Fitzgerald Toussaint	PIT	3	Only #3 on depth chart and the #2 rarely does much when Bell is healthy.
36	Terron Ward	ATL	2	They do use him in blowout wins at least.
Rank	**Wide Receivers**	**Team**	**Projected # of Games**	**Comments**
1	Antonio Brown	PIT	3	We have Pit playing 3 games and he's the best WR in the land.
2	Julian Edelman	NE	3	All about NE's advantage in the AFC and he's been durable this year.
3	Dez Bryant	DAL	3	Shakier than usual and will be a bad pick if they don't play 3 games, but we project that.
4	Julio Jones	ATL	2	Nothing wrong with him as a 1st round pick as we have then in 2 and could easily be 3.
5	Jordy Nelson	GB	2	On fire down the stretch and GB could run the table in NFC so obviously desirable.
6	Doug Baldwin	SEA	2	We do like Seattle to play 2 games and he stands out as a guy who dominates target share here.
7	Davante Adams	GB	2	Breakout season in 2016 and should get better matchups than Jordy in playoffs.
8	Odell Beckham	NYG	1	If they are 1-and-done he can go out with a bang and major payoff if they just win 1 playoff game.
9	DeAndre Hopkins	HOU	2	We do like Hou for 2 games but expectations needs to be tempered with shaky QB situation.
10	Malcolm Mitchell	NE	3	Out Week 17 but will have 3 weeks to heel from last game Wk 16 and upside in playoffs.
11	Eli Rogers	PIT	3	He is right now their second-best WR and gets good matchups in the slot.
12	Taylor Gabriel	ATL	2	Should be ok health-wise and an impact/upside player given his ability to make big plays.
13	Cole Beasley	DAL	3	His body of work with Dak has been very good so a sneaky pick as we have them in 3 games.
14	Amari Cooper	OAK	1	Tough QB situation and we have them 1-and-done so only someone to take if he slips a little.
15	Michael Crabtree	OAK	1	No Carr is a big problem and we have them playing only 1 game, so make sure he's a value if you take him.
16	Mohamed Sanu	ATL	2	Hardly a lock but does have some upside especially if they can play in 3 games.
17	Terrance Williams	DAL	3	A sneaky pick as he has big-play and red zone potential and he's quietly improved this year.
18	Chris Hogan	NE	3	Definitely stands out of over many higher-end options who should play only 1-2 games, an upside pick.
19	Golden Tate	DET	1	Could at least go out with a bang if they are 1-and-done.
20	Randall Cobb	GB	2	He's really fallen off but he could also get healthier and make an impact.
21	Tyreek Hill	KC	1	He's a classic example of potentially going out with a bang, and a great pick if they play even 2 games.
22	Jeremy Maclin	KC	1	Not easy to trust but he is the #1 WR and we're hardly sure KC will lose their first game.
23	Michael Floyd	NE	3	Already making an impact here so a sleeper on SB favorites as offense is similar to his at Notre Dame.
24	Jarvis Landry	MIA	1	Can't take him too high but in PPR he could always go out with a bang.
25	Jermaine Kearse	SEA	2	We do like them to play 2 games and no Lockett gives him a chance to make some big plays.
26	Sammie Coates	PIT	3	Boom or bust pick but he does have big-play potential whenever he's on the field.

2016 NFL Playoff Cheat Sheet (cont.)

Rank	WR (cont.)	Team	Projected # of Games	Comments
27	Will Fuller	HOU	2	Best thing about him is we have them with 2 games and he can make big plays, but QB issues.
28	Sterling Shepard	NYG	1	If the Giants win 1 game he will likely go down as a nice value this year.
29	Marvin Jones	DET	1	Game has fallen off and we have them in 1 game only, but he still does have legit potential.
30	DeVante Parker	MIA	1	Hard to trust but he is capable of going out with a bang on likely 1-and-done team.
31	Kenny Stills	MIA	1	He's quietly scored 9 TDs this year so he's just as good of an upside pick late as Parker.
32	Brice Butler	DAL	3	He's a reach but has seen field and has made some plays down the stretch and we like Dal for 3 games.
33	Geronimo Allison	GB	2	Could be worthless if Cobb is okay but does have 13 targets and 8/151/1 last 2 games of season.
34	Cobi Hamilton	PIT	3	He did score Week 17 and has been getting onto the field for Steelers.
35	Darrius Heyward-Bey	PIT	3	He did make a big play in Week 17 and they do like this veteran as a helpful asset.
36	Paul Richardson	SEA	2	He will get on the field with Lockett out and he is fast with some potential.
37	Danny Amendola	NE	3	Banged up but could easily be in the mix in 2-3 weeks.
38	Anquan Boldin	DET	1	Hard to trust but he could always score 1-2 TDs even if they are 1-and-done.
39	Victor Cruz	NYG	1	He did at least show signs of life late in the season.
40	Justin Hardy	ATL	2	May not doing anything with Taylor expected to be okay, but he's made an impact here in Dec.
41	Aldrick Robinson	ATL	2	This deep, you're just hoping he makes 1 big play, and he has made some in 2016.
42	Seth Roberts	OAK	1	He's only the #3 WR but could always make a play.
43	Chris Conley	KC	1	His snaps has been good all year, production no so much.
Rank	**Tight Ends**	**Team**	**Projected # of Games**	**Comments**
1	Ladarius Green	PIT	3	Tough call for the top TE but we like Pit to play 3 and he was really coming on WR-poor Pit.
2	Jimmy Graham	SEA	2	We do have them playing 2 games and he can get it done in 8 quarters for sure.
3	Martellus Bennett	NE	3	Snaps and targets down which is the only reason he's not #1, but obviously viable even at #1.
4	Travis Kelce	KC	1	If they win 1 game this will likely be a bad ranking for this stud, but we do have them 1-and-done.
5	Jason Witten	DAL	3	No lock but certainly has nice potential if they play 3 games as we project.
6	Jared Cook	GB	2	He does have 21 targets final 3 games so some upside here with Rodgers.
7	C.J. Fiedorowicz	HOU	2	We do have them with 2 games so not a bad option if you hold off on TE.
8	Jesse James	PIT	3	Only behind Green but we do have them in 3 games.
9	Eric Ebron	DET	1	You're hoping he goes out with a bang in 1 game, but upside if they win that 1 game.
10	Austin Hooper	ATL	2	Hurting so hard to back, but some upside if he's ready for playoffs.
11	Clive Walford	OAK	1	Bad QB situation and 1-and-done most likely so nothing special.
12	Ryan Griffin	HOU	2	He's just the #2 but has been in the mix and we doo have them in 2 games.
13	Richard Rodgers	GB	2	Behind Cook so not much to get excited about other than that he plays with Aaron Rodgers.
14	Will Tye	NYG	1	If you roll with him you Will Lose most likely, but he's their #1.
15	Dion Sims	MIA	1	With Sims you're just hoping for 1-2 cheap TDs in 1 game, which he's done recently.
16	Mychal Rivera	OAK	1	Only the backup and a bad QB situation, so a weak option.
17	Levine Toilolo	ATL	2	We really don't want to roll with this guy but Hooper is banged up still.
18	Jerell Adams	NYG	1	He's been eased into the mix here and could score as he's been used in red zone.
19	Matt Lengel	NE	3	Here simply because he's on the Pats, but does have a TD late this season.
20	MarQueis Gray	MIA	1	He's plays a lot but Sims is the better choice.
21	Demetrius Harris	KC	1	He's actually been in the mix but he's a major reach.
22	Luke Willson	SEA	2	He did score Week 17 so not a lost cause.
Rank	**Kickers**	**Team**	**Projected # of Games**	**Comments**
1	Stephen Gostkowski	NE	3	He's had his worst season but he's still one of best of all time and plays with Brady.
2	Dan Bailey	DAL	3	We do have Dal playing 3 games which is key here.
3	Chris Boswell	PIT	3	We project 3 games for the Steelers so a solid pick.
4	Mason Crosby	GB	2	Certainly has a chance to surprise as GB can easily get in 3 games, maybe even 4.
5	Matt Bryant	ATL	2	He's had a nice year and they are dangerous, so worth a lot if he slips a little.
6	Steven Hauschka	SEA	2	We have them with 2 games as they should win this week at home.
7	Nick Novak	HOU	2	He's actually had a great season and we have them in 2 games.
8	Cairo Santos	KC	1	KC could certainly win 1 game so not a bad option on the low end.
9	Robbie Gould	NYG	1	NYG D is great so he has a chance to get in 2 games or more.
10	Sebastian Janikowski	OAK	1	Had a good fantasy season but tough situation with the QB issue.
11	Matt Prater	DET	1	He has a great year but in Seattle is tough for this whole team.
12	Andrew Franks	MIA	1	Clearly the worst option on the board.
Rank	**Defense**	**Team**	**Projected # of Games**	**Comments**
1	NE	NE	3	Not a great fantasy D but they are the SB favorites so we'll take our chances with them #1.
2	PIT	PIT	3	Another so-so fantasy D but we have them playing 12 quarters, so have a chance.
3	DAL	DAL	3	D has stepped up nicely and have some players, but so-so for fantasy so ranking about volume of games.
4	GB	GB	2	D has slipped and is shaky but if Rodgers can carry them they have a chance.
5	NYG	NYG	1	Great D, but we do have them playing only 1 game, yet upside if they get 1 win, which is possible.
6	KC	KC	1	At least they have potential to go out with a bang with Hill in return game and solid pass rush.
7	SEA	SEA	2	Not what they once were but do get 1 home game at least and we have them in 2 games.
8	ATL	ATL	2	Have had their moments and do have a pass rush so solid pick later.
9	HOU	HOU	2	Very good D, just not great for fantasy, but we do have them in 2 games.
10	DET	DET	1	Hard to feel good about them in Seattle for wild card round.
11	OAK	OAK	1	Not much going on here most likely.
12	MIA	MIA	1	Easily the worst D in the playoffs.