

Week 5 Power Rankings

I wanted to do this week's Power Rankings by tiers. We're still early in the year, but we now have a pretty good picture of what each team is and what they can do. I have also paired each ranking with a list of each team's MVP and a player to watch, as well as my thoughts on what they should do to improve their roster (if it needs improving at all). Just remember that these rankings are 100% correct, and if your team is lower than you thought they should be, it is 100% intentional and personal.

Week 5 Scores:

DoorDash Franchise (ETH) 164.78 – 120.14 Derek C. & Raheem (PAX)

King of the Hill (NAT) 168.12 – 76.72 Cilence of Dee Lambs (ERI)

The Joeker (TIM) 124.56 – 102.50 Bourne-Achane Virgins (STO)

J.Crew (JAC) 123.06 – 63.54 Oakford Lake Boys (ALE)

ChristianMinecraftServer (BRY) 109.24 – 65.82 The bottom feeders (PER)

Week 6 Matchups (Game of the week in bold):

King of the Hill (NAT) vs. ChristianMinecraftServer (BRY)

Oakford Lake Boys (ALE) vs. Derek C. & Raheem (PAX)

J.Crew (JAC) vs. The Joeker (TIM)

DoorDash Franchise (ETH) vs. Silence of Dee Lambs (ERI)

Bourne-Achane Virgins (STO) vs. The bottom feeders (PER)

Last week's rankings:

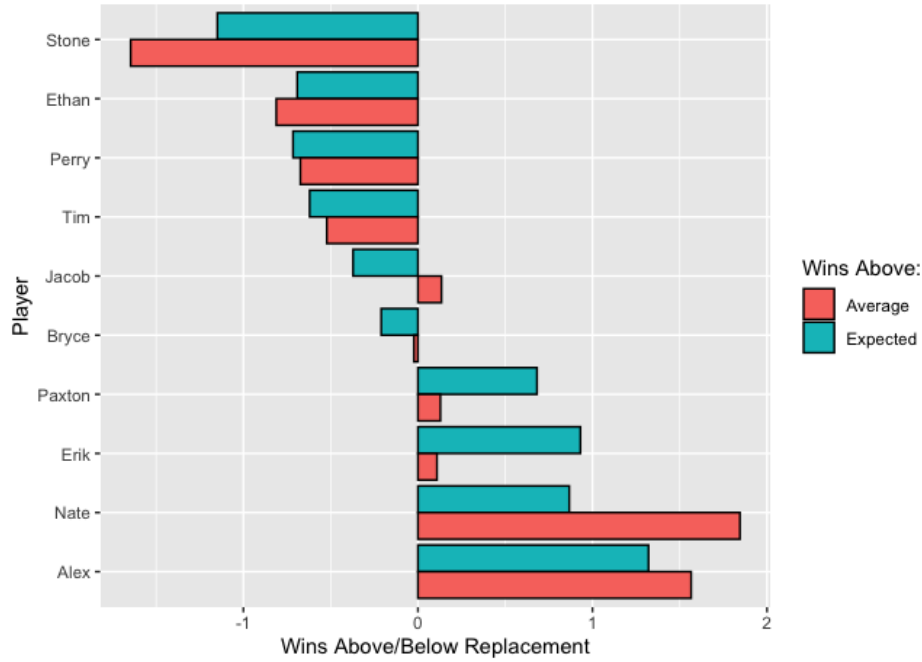
1. Bryce
2. Luft
3. Nate
4. Alex
5. Paxton
6. Erik
7. Stone
8. Tim
9. Perry
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
17. Ethan¹

¹ Spoiler: Ethan will set an all-time record in spots jumped week-to-week this week.

Week 5 Plots:

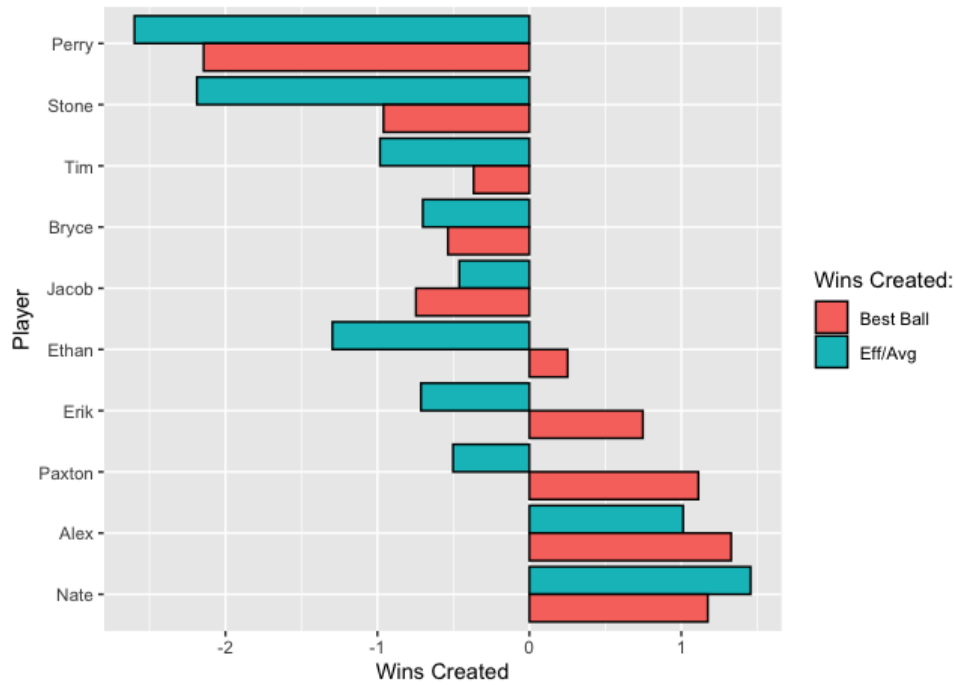
Wins Above Expectation: Week 5

How lucky/unlucky are you so far?



Wins Created by Efficiency: Week 5

How has lineup construction affected your performance?



Tier 1: People who cheer for the Browns to win by only scoring safeties (League Favorites)

1. Nate (5-0): +2

- **Overview:** Nate responded to the “Soft Schedule” and “Fraud” allegations by beating Erik by nearly 100 points last week. What’s more impressive in my opinion is that this 168-point outburst really wasn’t a result of someone going completely bonkers, but rather of 85th percentile outcomes of all his players. That bodes very well for this team going forward and means that this type of Oppenheiming is in play at any moment. The Stefon Diggs/Tyreek Hill combo is the best WR duo in a league (literally WR1/2) that has a ton of really great ones (Adams/Brown, Chase/Waddle, Allen/ARSB, Romeo Doubs/Christian Watson), and Kirk/Olave/Godwin/Thielen on the bench is just ridiculous. Jalen Hurts is QB2 (and probably will be improving), and Jake Elliott has been overall player #35 from the kicker position.² The only real problems with the roster construction are a lack of depth in the RB room (until Jahmyr Gibbs breaks out), using 2 spots for DSTs, and the maddeningly inconsistent Darren Waller. Even in spite of that, this team is the favorite, and no one else is really all that close as of right now.
- **Wins Above Expectation:** +0.87
- **Wins Above Average:** +1.84
- **MVP:** Stefon Diggs
- **Player to watch:** Jahmyr Gibbs
- **Team Needs:** Consolidated WR depth for a good RB2, David Montgomery to be launched into space

Tier 2: People whose starting QB’s name starts with J: Justin Herbert, Josh Allen, Jpatrick Mahomes (Strong Playoff Contenders)

2. Jacob (3-2): –

- **Overview:** In back-to-back weeks, Jacob has been screwed by Aaron Jones’s injury (1 time was his fault, the other was not). If that had been resolved, Jacob would be 4-1 with possibly the most PF in the league, even in spite of Nate’s most recent scoring explosion. The AJ Brown/Davante Adams is a great 1-2 WR punch (WR8/9 so far), as they both get enough volume week in and out to be pretty generally matchup-proof. Combine that with TJ Hockenson’s resurgence as a pass-catcher and Jacob’s in a great

² To have a kicker performing with a consistent WR2 output (13.6 PPG) is so unbelievably unfair.

spot moving forward.³ Running back, however, is a different story. While Zack Moss is trying like hell to delay the inevitable, the Colts would not have paid JT all that money to let him prove their point about the contract dispute, and a significant dip in Moss's volume might crater an already thin and injury-plagued RB room behind Jones. If the players around the running backs can pick up the slack and Josh Allen can continue to elevate his ceiling, Jacob should be due for a playoff run. If Jones misses any more time, though, there's a chance he could get caught by a few of the suddenly frisky teams in spots 3-7 below him.

- **Wins Above Expectation:** -0.37
- **Wins Above Average:** +0.13
- **MVP:** Josh Allen
- **Player to watch:** Tyjae Spears
- **Team Needs:** Either an RB trade to materialize or broken legs to Derrick Henry and Jonathan Taylor

3. Alex (4-1): +1

- **Overview:** This week's performance notwithstanding, Alex has a team that is really good but not outperforming any luck indicators significantly, which is a good sign that sustained success is coming. With the Chargers being on bye and ARSB hurt, this week should be viewed as an aberration. The Herbert/Allen stack has been everything one could have hoped for this season, with Herbert playing like an MVP and Keenan ranked as WR7 even after a bye. Plus, with Puka/Garrett Wilson included, this is arguably the deepest WR room in the league, even with Wilson's ceiling significantly dampened. That said, he sits a bit lower in the rankings because there's a good chance Derrick Henry is going to have his volume share eaten into by Tyjae Spears,⁴ and with his rather inefficient start to the year, this hurts an already pretty soft RB situation for Alex, given Javonte Williams' injury problems. It will be worth monitoring how that situation plays out going forward.⁵
- **Wins Above Expectation:** +1.32
- **Wins Above Average:** +1.57
- **MVP:** Puka Nacua/Keenan Allen (tie)
- **Player to watch:** Gus Edwards
- **Team Needs:** more RB depth, a time machine to bring back 2020 Derrick Henry

4. Paxton (3-2): +1

³ Jacob's WR depth is really strong as well, with Mike Evans/Deebo Samuel sitting behind them and KJ Osborn about to be thrust into a bigger role.

⁴ I threw up writing this.

⁵ Interesting sidenote: Alex has decided to go with the QB/RB combo this year that forced him into doing all those Everclear shots 3 years ago, when Justick Herbenry combined to save maybe the worst fantasy team in history (Paxton) in the last place game. How bad was that team originally? It auto-drafted Daniel Jones in the 8th round.

- **Overview:** You can look at Ja'Marr Chase's 44.5 point performance this past week in 2 ways – either you see that Tee Higgins was out and Burrow is still checking down a lot and has a pretty limited depth of target and YPC/YPA and temper your enthusiasm, or you can look at an advanced metric called “Points Scored” and loudly proclaim that Ja'Marr is back. I'm choosing to look at the latter since this was the first week all season that either of Paxton's consensus Top 10 fantasy WRs scored a touchdown, so a regression to the mean on that front was due. The analytics see this team in wildly different ways – either as a team that has been lucky due to opponent competition/lineup setting (2 weeks ago) or one that has actually underperformed based on what would be expected against average competition (last week). There's a good chance this team continues to climb, too, as Paxton has 4 RB1s on the roster⁶ with a 5th due in a couple weeks (Jonathan Taylor), as well as the best QB in football.⁷ The WR depth behind Chase/Waddle is lacking, but there's also a pretty significant opportunity for a trade upgrade somewhere given the surplus of really good RBs on the roster.
- **Wins Above Expectation:** +0.68
- **Wins Above Average:** +0.13
- **MVP:** Kyren Williams
- **Player to watch:** Jaylen Waddle
- **Team Needs:** Gabe Davis to make up his mind, Patrick Mahomes to stop handing the ball off

Tier 3: People who need to trade me their starting RBs (Indicators Pointing Up)

5. Ethan (2-3): +12

- **Overview:** As I tried to drink myself blind in a Tulsa bar watching DJ Moore and Justin Fields tag-team my fantasy team last Thursday, I (along with many others, I'm sure) wondered whether this was a sign of things to come for The Stack.⁸ I'm inclined to believe it is. While Fields did have a random 2-3 week explosion last year followed by below-average play the rest of the year, that was a result of breaking big touchdown runs and falling off once people set contain. The last two weeks seem to have been based on him making throws and leveraging his running threat, which is a much more repeatable formula, especially with a true WR1 in Moore.⁹ This means Ethan is probably due for a climb. The Bijan/Kamara/Achane backfield is really going to be doing some heavy lifting, as Kamara has looked good in his return from suspension and the other two are RBs 8

⁶ 3 of whom, for the record, cost the equivalent of an 8th round pick: 2 waiver pickups (D'Andre Swift and Kyren Williams) and 1 trade for Breece Hall.

⁷ While Sleeper projections really don't mean much, it's worth mentioning that the 121.30 that Paxton is projected to score this week is the highest projected total of anyone all season.

⁸ Trademarked.

⁹ Counterpoint: The Commanders' and Borncos' DSTs range from “subpar” to “worst defense in NFL history”, so there's a chance that that played a role in Fields' increased output.

and 3, respectively. So long as Fields and Moore continue to be as advertised, this team should overcome some of its depth issues at WR to win games.

- **Wins Above Expectation:** -0.69
- **Wins Above Average:** -0.81
- **MVP:** DJ Moore
- **Player to watch:** DeVonta Smith
- **Team Needs:** Consistent WR2 output, De'Von Achane to heal quickly

6. Tim (2-3): +2

- **Overview:** Tim's resurgence over the last couple weeks has been quite interesting, as this group went from a team that was in real trouble to one that had sky-high upside until JJ went down with a hamstring injury. Hamstrings are tricky, and it remains to be seen what the Vikings will do should they continue to be garbage for the foreseeable future, so Tim's trade strategy has a chance to be a very clever move pending the return. However, with James Conner also going down, there's a chance that this could unravel quickly. Travis Etienne has been awesome, finally busting out last week against a really good Bills defense for 34.4 points. He's had healthy volume all season and continues to get good work in the passing game. Joe Burrow finally looks like he's back to normal, and that coupled with Travis Kelce's usual stellar play should be enough to continue propelling this team forward. Kelce's presence helps offset a mediocre WR room behind JJ, however, and if Kelce is at all hampered in the coming weeks, that could spell disaster for Tim's crew.
- **Wins Above Expectation:** -0.62
- **Wins Above Average:** -0.52
- **MVP:** Travis Kelce
- **Player to watch:** Emari Demercado
- **Team Needs:** WR1/2, Taylor Swift to talk to her friend God about Kelce's ankle

Tier 4: People who have mid teams but are sexy (Pretty Self-explanatory)

7. Stone¹⁰ (1-4): –

- **Overview:** Stone's 1-4 record is mostly a symptom of competition, as he has the 5th most PF and 3rd most PA in the league.¹¹ That said, a lot of points are being left on the board, as efficient usage of his resources would have won him 2-3 more games so far. The highly controversial Zero-WR strategy doesn't seem to be paying off, with Saquon

¹⁰ Stone is kind of a Tier 3.5. He settles here because while the analytics think his team may be able to climb a tier, he is also very sexy, and that won out.

¹¹ Analytics break: according to Pythagorean win expectancy, he'd be expected to win about 43% of his games, or 53% of his games if he faced average opposition.

battling injuries and Najee Harris sucking thus far.¹² Stone's WR room leaves a lot to be desired as well, with no one above WR17. Even the TLaw-Ridley stack has underachieved a bit, as the Jags' offense has been fairly inconsistent week-to-week and Lawrence isn't quite the mid-tier fantasy QB1 we thought he'd be coming into the season. That said, expect an immediate bounceback this week as Raheem Mostert should control the Dolphins' backfield against Carolina and Tony Pollard will see heavy work against a weak Chargers' run defense. This week should be a get-right game for the Virgins.

- **Wins Above Expectation:** -1.15
- **Wins Above Average:** -1.65
- **MVP:** Raheem Mostert
- **Player to watch:** George Kittle
- **Team Needs:** A real WR1, Najee Harris to start taking PEDs

8. Bryce (2-3): -7

- **Overview:** After only scoring 12.8 points this past week, we can safely assume that Christian McCaffrey is cooked and the time to sell on his stock is now. In all seriousness, Bryce getting CMC at pick 1.04 is probably going to be the best pick of the draft. Additionally, the WR room looks due for an explosion – Cooper Kupp is back from IR and looks very good, and Jordan Addison is due for a major volume uptick with JJ on IR. Those 3 plus Lamar Jackson make a really strong base for a fantasy team, not to mention one that is pointed upward. Also, consider the following – Alexander Mattison's slow start could be offset by a volume uptick from JJ's injury, as well as Joe Mixon getting a healthy Burrow to clear the box out and stretch the defense. Zach Ertz isn't a fantastic TE, and the receiver depth does leave something to be desired, as it's mostly waiver guys, but it's not hard to make a case for rapid improvement here from Bryce's guys after their 0-3 start. The analytics really aren't kind to Bryce's team, but the external factors mentioned above make this a really interesting team to watch in the near future.
- **Wins Above Expectation:** -0.21
- **Wins Above Average:** -0.02
- **MVP:** Christian McCaffrey
- **Player to watch:** Michael Pittman, Jr.
- **Team Needs:** Mattison/Addison to increase usage, Puka Nacua to secretly lose the ability to catch the football but to still be defended like the second coming of Megatron for Kupp to get easy matchups and exploit coverages

9. Erik (2-3): -3

- **Overview:** Erik's team is the only team in the league to have a losing record and still be outperforming their projections, which really does not bode well for the coming weeks.

¹² Ironically, the two best players on Stone's roster are RBs, but not ones taken highly in the draft – Pollard was a keeper and Mostert was a late-round pick. They are RBs 13 and 2, respectively.

Same situation as Bryce, however – you can easily talk yourself into believing in an upswing. Austin Ekeler has not touched the field since week 1, and yet Erik has won 2 games. Tee Higgins has had 1 good game and has been injured/nonexistent in the rest, and yet Erik has won 2 games. Anthony Richardson has started and left early due to injury in 2 games, and Erik has still won 2 games. Plus, CeeDee and Ken Walker will continue to get large volume shares, and Sam LaPorta and Isiah Pacheco are steals. Personally, I'm skeptical, though – a healthy Burrow most likely prioritizes getting Ja'Marr the ball downfield over Tee Higgins, and the rest of the non-compact disc WRs on this roster are really capped by their offense and QB play. Plus, with AR out for at least a week, there needs to be some answer at QB for this team. The right pieces are here, but you'd need Ekeler to come back all the way healthy and for CeeDee/Kenny to have generational runs to make up for the holes elsewhere on the roster.

- **Wins Above Expectation:** +0.93
- **Wins Above Average:** +0.11
- **MVP:** Sam LaPorta¹³
- **Player to watch:** Jaylen Warren
- **Team Needs:** A healthy Ekeler, real WR depth behind Lamb/Higgins, the Steelers/Raiders/Commanders to be moved to the XFL for easier competition

Tier 5: Perry (Perry)¹⁴

10. Perry (1-4): -1

- **Overview:** According to the Pythagorean win expectancy model, Perry should be much better than his record in pretty much every category. The first few weeks, he had some unlucky lineup crunches and gave up a very winnable game against Paxton by leaving David Montgomery on the bench.¹⁵ That said, things are looking increasingly dour looking out – the RB room doesn't have much high-upside talent, and Perry has invested a lot of resources into the elite Romeo Doubs/Christian Watson WR duo. DK Metcalf and DeAndre Hopkins would be a killer 1-2 punch 3 years ago, but Hopkins is saddled with mediocre QB play now and is a pretty low-ceiling option in that Titans' offense.¹⁶ Nico Collins is a fantastic waiver grab and should continue to see volume in Tank Dell's absence, even if he alone can't fill the Tyreek Hill-sized void in the WR room. Tua's play has been a great positive and solidifies a position that has been tricky for a lot of teams

¹³ Erik somehow has TE1, but it's probably not a great sign that your MVP is a guy averaging under 12 PPG.

¹⁴ For the record, I wasn't going to put Perry here originally, he's only here because he asked to be – he should be probably between the 7-9 range due to the fact that his players are bound to eventually explode when they are starting as opposed to being on the bench. That said, I cannot condone trading away the consensus best WR in fantasy for anyone, much less Jahmyr Gibbs + James Cook.

¹⁵ Not a bad play at the time – he was dealing with a nagging injury all week and the Lions had an excellent backup plan in Gibbs.

¹⁶ DK is having a nice season. That was a sneaky good return if you needed to trade Tyreek.

this year. That said, Perry needs a few players to punch above their weight to get back into the playoff race.

- **Wins Above Expectation:** -0.72
- **Wins Above Average:** -0.67
- **MVP:** Tua Tagovailoa
- **Player to watch:** Amari Cooper
- **Team Needs:** A trade that brings back an elite WR1 while sending out guys like Jahmyr Gibbs, DK Metcalf, and James Cook¹⁷

¹⁷ If God wanted Perry to trade Tyreek, he would have had an opponent give him an offer like Jaylen Waddle + D'Andre Swift and draft capital.