



# FOOTBALL EXTRA POINTS

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NFL - Team Reports

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**FOOTBALL EXTRA POINTS - MONDAYS @ 9:00PM EASTERN**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2013

**ZOMBIES HAVE TERRIBLE PALATES: EARLY WEEK 10 FANTASY FOOTBALL PICKUPS**

Is the flu shot the beginning of the zombie apocalypse?



I personally love the flu shot, as I'll take any pharmaceutical that will keep me healthy. Heck, I'm fairly certain that according to Darwinism, I should have been wiped out a long time ago. So if there's an artificial way to avoid that, I'm all about it. But I digress.



My wife has a theory that the flu shot is the government's attempt to infect everyone with the zombie virus ala "The Walking Dead". Of course, if you know my wife, you'll also know that she doesn't require any formalities, like, say, "evidence", to have a theory. And although I doubt its true, no one wants to become a zombie. I mean, seriously, I hate organ meats. I once ordered a "meat platter" when I was in Brussels, and it turned out it was five different organ meats, all of which I couldn't identify. That was cooked and spiced and I could barely choke down a

**MOST DISCUSSED**

The Packers are improving, but they can't win the Super Bowl. Week 17 Power Rankings.

Geno Smith outperformed everyone's expectations

Percy Harvin is moving on to the Seahawks, where do the Vikings go to replace him?

How good is Seattle right now? Are they the best team in the NFL? Week 17 Power Rankings



Isn't That Kangeroo Cute?: Early Week 1 Fantasy Football

Pickups



Off-season

Troubleshooting: St. Louis Rams



Garbage In, Garbage Out: Cleveland Browns Update 3



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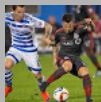
The Ravens stole one against New England last week. Here's a look at week 4 matchups.



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 Tavon Austin can prove out to be a steal for the St.Louis Rams - Tavon Austin can prove out to be a steal for the St.Louis Rams There is no doubt that the St.Louis Rams have lacked of a solid option at the wide receive...

B4



RTP Richard Thigpen Photography



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few bites, so you can imagine how unhappy I would be if I had to eat raw organs. Ick. At least sear the outside with some pepper or something. Zombies are so gross. They'll eat anything.



Anyway, the point is, sometimes you plan for something good, like getting a flu shot, and it leads to something terrible, like the zombie apocalypse. And in fantasy football, you can plan to get those great sleepers and ride out the bumps for the first couple of weeks with the grand plan of killing it late in the season, but if it hasn't come together yet for your team, then it's time to come up with a new plan. What new plan, you ask? Well, how about using one of these free agent pickups (as usual, owned in less than 50% of Yahoo standard leagues):

Brian Leonard – RB – 7% Owned

Poor Mike James. He had a great opportunity when Doug Martin went down and he was just starting to get into his role as an every down back. In fact, prior to leaving this week's game with a broken ankle against the Dolphins, he had gashed them for 41 yards on just 5 carries, and even had a nice 17 yard run called back on a penalty. Now he's done for the season, and although the Bucs finally won a game, it was a net loss without James. In stepped Brian Leonard, the running back famous for hurdling players at Rutgers. He's no great find, and he's probably better suited to 3rd down passing back duties as he's done all year, but he did have 22 total touches for 73 yards after James went down. Although Schiano says it will be a committee, Leonard has more experience and will likely get the first crack at touches. If you're desperate in 12-team and deeper leagues, or just lost James, he might be worth a look. And for those really desperate, you can also consider his running mate, Bobby Rainey.

Tavon Austin – WR – 42% Owned

The Rams traded up to take Tavon Austin as the no. 8 overall pick in this year's NFL draft. And, at the time, we were all thinking "Percy Harvin-like" impact for the Rams. But through the first 9 weeks, other than some spectacular special teams plays, the powers that be at St. Louis didn't seem to want to use him on offense. That is, until this week. Austin only got 3 targets, but he caught two of them for 138 yards and two TDs, adding another 145 yards and a 98-yard TDs on punt returns. It's time to start taking notice folks. This is the explosiveness we were all waiting for, but this is also the epitome of a boom or bust player. The Rams have nothing to lose, and it's clear that Austin is a special talent that needs more looks. Maybe he only gets 4-6 targets a week, but that may be enough for a flex or WR4 in 14-team or deeper leagues, or if your league counts return yards, then worth a pickup in 12-team or deeper leagues.

Doug Baldwin – WR - 22% Owned

After Sidney Rice went down with a knee injury (and landed on the IR), and with Percy Harvin still not back from injury, Baldwin became the WR2 in Seattle. Last week he caught 6 passes for 75 yards and a TD. And this week, he caught 5 of 8 targets for 76 yards. That's solid WR2 production for an NFL team, and for your fantasy team. Until Harvin comes back (which may be as soon as next week), Baldwin is worth a look in 12-team and deeper leagues. It's also worth seeing what role he plays once Harvin does return, but don't expect too much.

an Elite 2013 Fantasy Quarterback?

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#### *Rishard Matthews – WR – 4% Owned*

After Brandon Gibson went down with a torn patellar tendon a few weeks ago, Rishard Matthews took his place as the WR3 in Miami playing out of the slot. He didn't do much with it until this week when he caught 11 passes for 120 yards and two touchdowns (his first two of his career). Don't go chasing these stats, he's unlikely to repeat as Matthews had just 10 catches on the season and 21 for his entire career. This week, he was targeted 14 times, but it could have been partly because Mike Wallace was being shadowed by Revis Island. But the good news is he can definitely run routes and Miami is starting to fall apart, which means there may be junk time stats in the future. If you need to reach for a WR4 in 14-team and deeper leagues (or PPR leagues) he may be worth a stash.

#### *Justin Hunter – WR – 1% Owned*

If you're really desperate in a really deep league (read: 16-team league or deeper), then perhaps you want to consider Justin Hunter. After Damien Williams went out with a quad injury, Hunter converted 2 of 7 targets for 51 yards. If he keeps getting 4-6 targets on a team that will likely have to play from behind (even with Ryan Fitzpatrick at the helm – and on a side note, I can't believe Locker went out with negative fantasy points this week, the one week I was relying on him...OK, rant over), he's potentially interesting as a bye week replacement or desperation play in those deep leagues.

#### *Tyler Eifert – TE – 18% Owned*

With Jermaine Gresham out this week, Tyler Eifert finally had the move TE position to himself. After watching Eifert play at Notre Dame for a number of years, I've come to appreciate his ability to out reach defenders and snag balls out of the air. And although he only caught 3 balls for 55 yards, he did have an amazing 10 targets. Some were from the OT, but if he continues to be the sole move TE in Cincinnati, then 6-8 targets for 40-60 yards and an occasional TD would not be unusual. Worth a speculative pickup in 12-team and deeper leagues.

#### *John Carlson - TE - 2% Owned*

Poor Kyle Rudolph never met his potential in Minnesota, partly due to scheme and partly due to a carousel of signal callers passing as quarterbacks. And now he's injured. But who better to take the place of a former Notre Dame TE phenom than another former Notre Dame TE phenom, John Carlson (starting to see a theme here?). Carlson hasn't been relevant since he played for the Seahawks in 2010, and in fact, his TD this week was his first since that season, but getting 98 yards on 7 receptions (from both Ponder and Cassel) isn't bad. Of course, Freeman may be in next week, so who knows. But for those desperate for a TE in 16-team or deeper leagues, or in need of a bye week replacement in 14-team or deeper leagues, he may be worth a look.

And here's a list of pick ups mentioned in previous weeks that I still recommend picking up if they're still available: *Zac Stacy, Nick Foles, Kris Durham, Harry Douglas, Andre Ellington, Terrance Williams, DeAndre Hopkins, Fred Jackson, Brian Hartline, Joique Bell, Julian Edelman, Roy Helu Jr., Terrelle Pryor, Rueben Randle, Joseph Randle, Jared Boykin, Mike James, Mike Glennon, Jordan Reed, Tim Wright, Shonn Green, Mike Brown, Mike Tolbert, Case Keenum, Dennis Johnson, Aaron Dobson, Tiquan Underwood, Brandon LaFell and Marvin Jones.*

If you want to know more about any of these past pick ups, go ahead and check out my pick up discussions

here: <http://www.footballextrapoints.com/search/label/Ha%20Kung%20Wong>

So time to make those new plans! Just beware of the flu shot. Sure you won't get the flu this year, but trust me, organ meat platters can be pretty bad. And pretty messy.

**By Ha Kung Wong (Twitter: @Rhihan)**



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