

2017 Rookie Keeper League Cheat Sheet

We haven't produced an overall ranking list for rookies because, for those in keeper leagues, positional need is such a big factor for ranking the players. However, due to popular demand, we're giving it a shot. These players are ranked for the next 2-3 years based on the following priorities: **1. Talent 2. Opportunity 3. Supporting Cast 4. System 5. Draft status (drafted or not)**

Rank	Name	Team	Pos	Age	Comments
1	Christian McCaffrey	RB	CAR	20	Teaming with Cam and veteran OC Shula should work out fairly well at worst and we love the player and the multiple threats he poses.
2	Leonard Fournette	RB	JAX	22	Has more upside than McCaffrey IF he's used in passing game and he can catch it pretty well, otherwise size + power is impressive.
3	Corey Davis	WR	TEN	22	The Titans drafted Davis, the most polished rookie WR, to be the man on the outside with Marcus Mariota for years to come, including this season as a rookie.
4	Joe Mixon	RB	CIN	20	Explosive, well-rounded talent, but you have to imagine both team and league will have zero tolerance towards further off-field incidents.
5	Dalvin Cook	RB	MIN	21	A complete back, but you have to wonder if he will struggle in deep backfield behind a shaky offensive line at the beginning of his career.
6	O.J. Howard	TE	TB	22	Howard will be a much better pro than college player. He landed in a great spot with Jameis Winston, but he'll contend with Cameron Brate for targets early in his career.
7	Mike Williams	WR	LAC	22	Williams is a big, physical X receiver who could quickly develop into Philip Rivers' favorite target on the outside, especially on slant routes.
8	Kareem Hunt	RB	KC	21	One of our favorite rookie RBs to watch on tape, Hunt is complete and competitive, and could beat out Spencer Ware by mid-season.
9	John Ross	WR	CIN	-	Ross broke the Combine 40-time record with a 4.22, and it might take long for him to become one of the most dangerous vertical threats in the league.
10	David Njoku	TE	CLE	20	Njoku has arguably more upside than O.J. Howard. Njoku has ideal athleticism for position, and should be able to make an immediate impact as a receiver.
11	Evan Engram	TE	NYG	22	The best-case scenario is that he turns into a Jordan Reed. It should only be a matter of time before he's a mismatch nightmare, but he'll need to improve as a blocker.
12	Alvin Kamara	RB	NO	20	In theory he's an excellent fit in the Reggie Bush role in the Saints' offense, but how many touches will he get per game?
13	Zay Jones	WR	BUF	22	Jones is a Jordan Matthews type as a big slot/Z receiver. With Sammy Watkins' future in Buffalo in doubt, Jones could become the #1 guy quickly.
14	Samaje Perine	RB	WAS	21	Downhill bruiser has more lateral juice than you might think and is instantly Washington's best RB.
15	ArDarius Stewart	WR	NYJ	-	Stewart plays like an RB out of the slot. He might never be a true fantasy stud, but he could easily become a PPR threat in this weak Jets offense.
16	Gerald Everett	TE	LAR	22	HC Sean McVay hopes that he found his new Jordan Reed. He has the athleticism to be a headache in the middle of the field, but he's still a raw prospect.
17	Deshawn Watson	QB	HOU	21	Should start 8+ games in '17 and solid spot for him to manage offense with strong weapons and he will run so likely to post top-15 dig its in 1-2 years.
18	Patrick Mahomes II	QB	KC	21	Will have top-12 upside in 2-3 years in this solid spot but also tangible downside as he has issues with nuances of the position.
19	Mitchell Trubisky	QB	CHI	22	May not play much in '17 but that's good for him and he'll eventually run and a solid chance to settle in as top-20 guy.
20	JuJu Smith-Schuster	WR	PIT	20	JuJu has a little Michael Crabtree in him. Smith-Schuster is a physical, possession receiver who should be able to play early in his career.
21	DeShone Kizer	QB	CLE	21	It's questionable if he can excel in NFL, but size/talent not an issue and he can produce big with his legs.
22	D'Onta Foreman	RB	HOU	21	Highly productive runner in college is already Houston's top back behind Miller and we could see him handling 8-10 carries per game as a rookie, with upside for more later.
23	Joe Williams	RB	SF	23	Explosive runner is reportedly a favorite of new coach Shanahan but commitment issues plus lack of third-down ability a concern.
24	Josh Reynolds	WR	LAR	22	Reynolds has gliding vertical speed and a long frame in the red zone. He should help in those areas early in his career, which makes him an interesting non-PPR option.
25	Taywan Taylor	WR	TEN	-	Taylor should become a good slot receiver with the potential for more. He could become a solid PPR option relatively early in his career.
26	Curtis Samuel	WR	CAR	20	Samuel has plenty of big-play ability. The best-case scenario is that he's used like Tyreek Hill, getting creative carries and targets every week.
27	Cooper Kupp	WR	LAR	23	Kupp projects best as a big slot. It could take him a little time to adjust from FCS corners to NFL corners, but he could develop into a #3 WR once he makes the transition.
28	Jeremy McNichols	RB	TB	21	The Buc backfield is currently deep, but with Martin suspended and Sims' injury issues, McNichols could be playing sooner than you might think.
29	Adam Shaheen	TE	CHI	-	Shaheen certainly has the size and athleticism to become a long-time starter and an impact receiver if he can handle the leap in competition from Division II Ashland.
30	Marlon Mack	RB	IND	-	There's a role for the explosive Mack in this Indy backfield as a rotational player, but he needs to learn to not bounce literally every run outside.
31	Carlos Henderson	WR	DEN	22	Henderson is dynamic with the ball in his hands. He should be able to make an immediate impact as a returner, and the Broncos will look to get the explosive playmaker some touches every week.
32	Jamaal Williams	RB	GB	-	No-frills grinder could be the thunder to Montgomery's lightning, but also has to compete with two other rookies here.
33	Wayne Gallman	RB	NYG	22	Competitive player should have an immediate role on third downs as receiver and blocker, but he just doesn't have high-level athletic traits.
34	Bucky Hodges	TE	MIN	21	Hodges is similar to Julius Thomas coming out because of his combination of size and athleticism as a receiver with similar concerns as a blocker.
35	George Kittle	TE	SF	23	Kittle has some similarities to another former Iowa TE Dallas Clark because of their size and athleticism. He still has the potential to develop into an effective receiver at all levels of the field.
36	James Conner	RB	PIT	21	Purely as a runner, he profiles closely to a LeGarrette Blount type, and should be the top backup behind the off-injured Le'Veon Bell as a rookie.
37	Donnel Pumphrey	RB	PHI	22	There should be carries available in Philly for Pumphrey, but given he weighs 180 pounds soaking wet, there's a huge question about his role at the next level.
38	Aaron Jones	RB	GB	22	Was drafted after fellow rookie Jamaal Williams, but is arguably the better talent of the two so don't be shocked if he has a bigger role.
39	Davis Webb	QB	NYG	22	Has size and arm to be a quality starter and Eli looks to be on the decline, so Webb a solid dynasty hold for now.

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40	Chris Godwin	WR	TB	21	Godwin is excellent in contested-catch situations. He needs to develop into a more complete WR, but Jameis Winston will give him some chances downfield.
41	Chad Williams	WR	ARI	22	Williams is a big-time athlete who needs a lot of overall work as a receiver. He brings some much-needed size to the Cardinals WR corps.
42	Kenny Golladay	WR	DET	-	Golladay brings some length to the Lions on the outside. He has strong hands but could take a little time to develop.
43	Amara Darboh	WR	SEA	23	Darboh is big and competitive and above average in just about every area. He could easily develop into a long-time #2 outside WR.
44	Dede Westbrook	WR	JAX	23	Westbrook has the tools to make an immediate impact as a vertical threat. He has game-breaking potential to be on the fantasy fringes in non-PPR formats.
45	Chad Hansen	WR	NYJ	22	Hansen is still a bit raw as just a one-year contributor in college, but he has plus athleticism to develop into a deep threat.
46	Jake Butt	TE	DEN	21	Butt is a long shot to be a contributor this season because of his knee injury. He has the chance to develop into a rock-solid target in the middle of the field.
47	Jordan Leggett	TE	NYJ	22	Leggett isn't a quick-twitch athlete and needs to improve as a blocker to get on the field, but he landed in a great spot to play right away.
48	Jonnu Smith	TE	TEN	21	Smith is a good athlete who compares a lot to starter Delanie Walker, who will obviously cap Smith's fantasy value for the next couple years.
49	Mack Hollins	WR	PHI	23	Hollins brings some size (6'4", 221 pounds) and gliding vertical speed to Philly, and he'll also contribute on special teams immediately to secure a roster spot.
50	Joshua Dobbs	QB	PIT	22	Landed in a great spot as Big Ben could call it quits any time and Dobbs has tools to work with.
51	Nathan Peterman	QB	BUF	23	Not overly talented or flashy, but many NFL traits and Taylor is year-to-year guy, so Peterman has a chance in 1-2.
52	Michael Roberts	TE	DET	22	Roberts is huge (6'4", 270 pounds) but has limited athleticism to ever be a receiving threat. The best-case scenario is that he develops into a red-zone threat.
53	Josh Malone	WR	CIN	21	Malone, a former five-star recruit, is an athletic freak. He's a developmental prospect because of his sloppy routes, bad drops, and inconsistent overall play.
54	Malachi Dupre	WR	GB	21	The Packers will need to be patient while Dupre develops. If everything goes right, he could develop into a dangerous outside WR with his length and leaping ability.
55	Eric Saubert	TE	ATL	-	Saubert has the size and athleticism to eventually make an impact, but he's a bit of project jumping from the FCS to the NFL.
56	Isaiah Ford	WR	MIA	21	Ford doesn't jump out in any aspect. It's unlikely that he's ever the featured receiver, and his destiny may be as a complementary receiver.
57	Shelton Gibson	WR	PHI	22	Gibson showed vertical ability at WVU, averaging 22+ YPR in his final season. He did disappoint at the Combine, and he has limited route work.
58	C.J. Beathard	QB	SF	23	Shanahan obviously thinks he can make him, but we don't like the prospect and expect Cousins here in 2018.
59	T.J. Logan	RB	ARI	22	Scatback type should replace Andre Ellington in this offense if Ellington is moving to WR.
60	Elijah McGuire	RB	NYJ	22	McGuire profiles as a lower-case Bilal Powell type of runner, so it makes sense that the Jets brought him on board.
61	Tarik Cohen	RB	CHI	21	Small-school RB with a small body, Cohen was drafted to usurp the Bears' passing-down work from the disappointing Jeremy Langford.
62	Brian Hill	RB	ATL	21	A grind-it-out type of runner, Hill is currently buried behind Freeman and Coleman in Atlanta.
63	Devante Mays	RB	GB	-	Patient and powerful, Mays would have been a higher draft pick if he didn't miss most of his final season in college with an ankle injury.
64	De'Angelo Henderson	RB	DEN	24	Henderson has some similarities to CJ Anderson, but is currently buried on the Broncos' depth chart after Charles signing.
65	Jeremy Sprinkle	TE	WAS	22	Sprinkle is unlikely to be a fantasy stud because he won't command a ton of targets, but he has the chance to eventually get on the non-PPR radar as a red-zone specialist.
66	Trent Taylor	WR	SF	23	Taylor is strictly a slot receiver at the next level, but he does have the quickness necessary to become a short-area target.
67	Noah Brown	WR	DAL	-	Browns needs to refine his game and is unlikely to make a big impact early, but he could develop into an imposing outside WR if given time.
68	Jehu Chesson	WR	KC	23	Chesson's play slipped during his time at Michigan. He'll need to turn it around and become a possession receiver for the Chiefs.
69	Elijah Hood	RB	OAK	-	We weren't terribly fond of this no-frills downhill runner on tape, and he's at best #4 on Oakland's current depth chart.
70	DeAngelo Yancey	WR	GB	22	Yancey brings some downfield ability with above average size and speed, but he'll need to improve his hands and route running.
71	Stacy Coley	WR	MIN	-	Coley has the potential to be a #3 WR and an impact returner, and he could turn out to be a better real-life player than a fantasy option.
72	Ryan Switzer	WR	DAL	22	The Cowboys drafted a Cole Beasley clone. Switzer will only play out of the slot, but he also brings some return ability.
73	Chad Kelly	QB	DEN	23	Talent is not a problem, but he's still more of a long-shot than sure thing, but landed in a solid spot with no clear-cut franchise QB.
74	Brad Kaaya	QB	DET	21	He's a developmental guy all the way, and in a bad spot with Stafford sticking for a while.
75	Robert Davis	WR	WAS	22	Davis led the WRs in SPARQ score at the combine. He's raw, but he has a high ceiling because of his size and athleticism.
76	David Moore	WR	SEA	22	Moore is an off-the-radar prospect from Division II East Central, but he's a freak athlete with great size who the Seahawks will try to develop.
77	Travin Dural	WR	NO	23	Dural battled injuries and poor QB play in college. He brings some size and speed as a complementary option.
78	Matthew Dayes	RB	CLE	-	The Browns appear to have their two top backs locked in, but Dayes will have a shot to earn a roster spot behind them.
79	Chris Carson	RB	SEA	22	Carson is a big body who tested extremely well at the Combine, but is currently among one of the NFL's most crowded RB depth charts.
80	Mason Schreck	TE	CIN	-	He's buried behind 2-3 younger guys, so a major reach for now.
81	Corey Clement	RB	PHI	-	UDFA but the local Philly product has size and some power so he could stick if they don't bring in one of the few solid vets available after draft.
82	De'Veon Smith	RB	MIA	-	We liked his college tape and while he was undrafted, we'd have to think he'll have a legit chance to make this team.
83	Ishmael Zamora	WR	OAK	-	Off-field issues but a very interesting prospect who could move way up our rankings if it looks like he'll make the team.
84	Billy Brown	TE	PHI	-	They have Ertz and Burton and Brown went undrafted, but we did rate him fairly high pre-draft.
85	KD Cannon	WR	SF	-	He didn't get drafted, but on the receiver-poor 49ers, he should have a chance to make the team.