

CLUB FANTASY'S

A Look Inside





2016 Recap

The arrival of Adam Gase apparently turned this team around for the better. Regular season record aside, the Dolphins offense seemed to perform better than in it has in recent years. If not for an injury to Ryan Tannehill, they may have even won a playoff game. Now let's look at them from a fantasy standpoint. In the offseason, many "experts" looked past Jay Ajayi as a capable starting RB in the NFL. Then the Dolphins helped solidify those feelings when they brought in the recently retired Arian Foster. If you listened to us during last offseason, you would've known we still liked Ajayi better than Foster, but we were tempering expectations. Consider expectations shattered. Ajayi broke out with his fair share of big games behind a better-than-people-think Dolphins offensive line, en route to a RB11 finish in Club Fantasy scoring. DeVante Parker couldn't stay healthy and effectively made us wait yet another year for the breakout that should be coming (this year please). Jarvis Landry (WR16) stayed the course, and that Kenny Stills guy? He proved to be a viable fill-in when Parker went down with injury and gave owners an 8 TD season.

– *The Hudsonian*

Position	Player	Points	2016 Ranking
QB	Ryan Tannehill	232.2	QB23
RB1	Jay Ajayi	217.4	RB11
RB2	Kenyan Drake	48.5	RB71
RB3	Damien Williams	89.6	RB46
WR1	Jarvis Landry	210.7	WR16
WR2	DeVante Parker	146.9	WR51
WR3	Kenny Stills	160.5	WR44
WR4	Leonte Carroo	11.9	WR159
TE1	Julius Thomas (w/ JAX)	82.1	TE32
K	Andrew Franks	71.0	K24
D/ST	Dolphins	165.0	DST10



Jay Ajayi

Don't you love it when stud performers come out of nowhere to light the fantasy world on fire? Ajayi became the talk of the fantasy world in Week 6, torching the Steelers for 204 yards and 2 TDs. If you thought it was a fluke and didn't pick him up on waivers, shame on you. The very next week, Ajayi went for his first of two 200 yard performances against the Buffalo Bills. Of his 1,272 rushing yards in 2016 - good for 4th in the NFL - he had 420 against the Bills. No wonder Rex Ryan is now in the broadcast booth. That was just a small sample of Ajayi's greatness in 2016. He had 3 of the 4 highest rushing yards in a game last season - two of which came against the aforementioned Bills. All three of those high totals topped 200 yards, the only player in the NFL to rush for 3 200 yard games - only one other running back (Le'Veon Bell) even had one 200 yard performance. And after Ajayi became the starter in Week 6, from that point on he led the NFL in rushing with 1,155 yards.

If fantasy owners have anything to complain about with Ajayi, it's consistency and his lackluster receiving totals. The three 200-yard performances are great, but they accounted for nearly 50% of his rushing yards for the season. While he added 8 TDs, not a small number by any means, he was hurt by his lack of involvement in the passing game. Ajayi only had 27 catches for 151 receiving yards on the season. Club Fantasy loves its PPR format, and we rank everything using it. Does the lack of receiving totals hurt him? Of course. But let's be honest. With only 12 RBs topping 1,000 rushing yards, you're not going to send him very far down your rankings. The Dolphins have reshuffled their line a bit this offseason, but the biggest key is Center Mike Pouncey. 51% of Ajayi's rushing yards came in games Pouncey played. That's great. I should also tell you Pouncey only played in 5 games. Now you understand why Pouncey is the key. A healthy Pouncey could very well be the difference between a 1,500 yard Ajayi season and an 1,100 yard Ajayi season. I'll take the in between, with about 1,300 yards and 7 TDs, and I think he chips in with about 30 catches for another 250 yards and a TD. All in all, not a bad year for a low end RB1.

– *The Hudsonian*



Jay Ajayi, RB



Jarvis Landry, WR

Without question, Jarvis Landry is one of the league's finest talents at the wide receiver position. He's a PPR monster who is a lock to have WR2 numbers. Unfortunately for fantasy owners his cohorts on the Dolphins offense are starting to get better. This means fewer targets, fewer catches, and fewer points for you. From 2015 to 2016 Landry saw a 21% drop in targets (166 to 131) and a 15% drop in receptions (110 to 94). This coupled with his historically low touchdown totals (he hasn't scored more than 5 in a season to start his career) means he just isn't reliable as your WR1 - yet. One bright note from last year was that his average yards per catch increased by 15% (from 10.5 to 12.1). And "Juice" is really in his prime after he snags the ball - he ranked 2nd in the NFL with 612 yards after the catch. He's good for 90 catches, 1200 yards and 4 touchdowns. If you're in a PPR league, take him in the 4th as your WR2 and watch your team fly. In non-PPR leagues, he's probably worth a 6th or 7th round pick.

– Cole Hoopingartner

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“Touchdowns are the only thing standing in Landry's way from making the leap to WR1 status. But when the 3rd and 4th rounds of your draft roll around, don't be afraid to take a page out of the "Friends" playbook and start screaming, "I need Juice! I need Juice! People need the Juice!"”

– The Hudsonian



Julius Thomas

Lots of free agents who signed with new teams in 2017 are likely very happy with the change in their environments. Count Julius Thomas among the happiest of that bunch. Thomas will reunite with head coach Adam Gase, who ran the record-setting Denver offense during Thomas' two explosive seasons from 2013-2014. Thomas' stats during those two seasons show how much Gase loves to get the tight end involved in his offenses. Thomas racked up 108 receptions on 152 targets for 1277 yards and 24 touchdowns when he teamed with Gase. I'm not sure what's better - that Thomas totaled those figures over only 27 games or that he did it with Demaryius Thomas and Emmanuel Sanders earning more than their fair share of catches and touchdowns. Fast forward past his two abysmal seasons in Jacksonville and Thomas is Back to the Future with Gase in Miami.

Thomas provides an immediate upgrade at the TE position for Miami, particularly in the red zone, where Ryan Tannehill's touchdown numbers are among the worst in the league (he threw for just 11 touchdowns in the red zone, ranking 26th). Thomas will provide Miami with the red zone threat it needs and Miami will provide Thomas the environment he needs to regain his form as a top 8 TE fantasy option. I'll predict 70 catches for 800 yards and 7 touchdowns.
– *Cole Hoopingarner*

“I'm not quite as bullish on Thomas as Commishie, but those numbers are certainly attainable. I think he's more a high-end TE2 with clear upside. He has to stay healthy though, which he's shown he's not exactly great at.”
– *The Hudsonian*



Julius Thomas, TE



2017 Preview

With Tannehill, Parker and Pouncey presumably healthy to start the season, the Dolphins should be on everyone's fantasy radar. They even brought in Gase's former TE from Denver, the once-relevant Julius Thomas, to anchor a position that has plagued the Dolphins for years. While the Patriots have the NFL's easiest schedule on paper, the Dolphins aren't nearly as lucky. They rank 18th in that department, and their fantasy playoff schedule isn't exactly like opening presents on Christmas. But their early season games should help you gain valuable assets in trades as they get the Jets twice, and every NFC South team, which aside from the Falcons, aren't exactly intimidating. If Thomas becomes an asset, don't hesitate to flip him as you know an injury is inevitable. Landry and Ajayi you'll likely hold onto all season, as both should be no lower than WR2 or RB1 status, respectively, in your lineup. And seriously, did I mention that playoff schedule? Home vs. Patriots, at Bills, at Chiefs. That's enough time to give new HC Sean McDermott time to make Ajayi forget Rex Ryan used to run that defense, and destroy your hopes of a championship in the process. – *The Hudsonian*

Team Schedule

Week 1: vs. Tampa Bay Bucs	Week 10: @ Carolina Panthers
Week 2: @ Los Angeles Chargers	Week 11: BYE WEEK
Week 3: @ New York Jets	Week 12: @ New England Patriots
Week 4: vs. New Orleans Saints	Week 13: vs. Denver Broncos
Week 5: @ Tennessee Titans	Week 14: vs. New England Patriots
Week 6: @ Atlanta Falcons	Week 15: @ Buffalo Bills
Week 7: vs. New York Jets	Week 16: @ Kansas City Chiefs
Week 8: @ Baltimore Ravens	Week 17: vs. Buffalo Bills
Week 9: vs. Oakland Raiders	