THE CHOPPING BLOCK

GUILLotine CAN TAVERN'S WEEKLY SURVIVAL PAPER



EIGHTEEN ENTER. ONE DRAFT BOARD LEAVES EVERYONE EXPOSED.

The inaugural edition grades all 252 selections using only what was known when the preseason draft ended. No Week 1 heroics. No hindsight. No mercy.

THE FORMAT

18 teams • 14 rounds • half-PPR
QB, 2 RB, 2 WR, TE, 2 FLEX
No trades. One weekly elimination.

THE VERDICT

The safest builds paired two bankable anchors with usable depth. The most dangerous builds treated a guillotine league like a dynasty orphan auction.

THE EXECUTIONER'S DRAFT ROOM



What mattered on draft night

Guillotine is not ordinary fantasy football. First place in September earns applause; last place earns free time. We valued reliable weekly volume, playable depth, and lineup flexibility more than a roster's theoretical December ceiling. Quarterback hoarding was penalized. Joke picks were appreciated artistically and ignored strategically.

“Your roster does not need to be perfect. It merely needs one manager to be worse.”

SURVIVAL	A dependable weekly core that can avoid the basement.
DEPTH	Real replacement options at RB and WR before the player pool begins to change.
STRUCTURE	Appropriate investment at one-start positions; no bench built like a quarterback museum.
CHAOS	The proper credit for team-name picks, retirees, and selections made chiefly to amuse the room.

ROSTER REPORTS • 1-3 OF 18

Grades reflect the draft board at the preseason cutoff only.

Ocean Clams

Chris Bettencourt

Draft core: Brock Bowers (1.18), Nico Collins (2.19), DJ Moore (3.54), MarShawn Lloyd (4.55), Jayden Reed, Jacory Croskey-Merritt, Bo Nix, Ray Davis, Brandon Aiyuk, Joe Mixon

C+
TE monarchy; RB scavenger hunt

Bettencourt used the turn to crown Brock Bowers and Nico Collins, then apparently decided running backs could be assembled later from spare parts. The receiver depth is real, but the weekly floor depends on Lloyd and Croskey-Merritt becoming more than optimistic names on a draft sheet. Bo Nix in Round 8 was sensible. Joe Mixon at 235 was less a pick than a séance.

Team Crit

Chris Ditata

Draft core: Saquon Barkley (1.06), Breece Hall (2.31), Ladd McConkey (3.42), Justin Herbert (4.67), Jordan Mason, Stefon Diggs, Dallas Goedert, Keenan Allen, Jordan Love

A-
Veteran floor with two real engines

Ditata drafted like a man who understands that guillotine leagues reward points now, not a beautiful five-year plan. Barkley and Hall give him weekly ballast, while the Herbert-McConkey pairing adds controlled volatility. The roster is older in spots, but nobody gets a pension check if the points still arrive on Sunday.

Team Cearex91

Mike Roy

Draft core: Jahmyr Gibbs (1.01), Tee Higgins (2.36), Emeka Egbuka (3.37), Dak Prescott (4.72), Tucker Kraft, Rachaad White, Rashid Shaheed, George Holani

B
First-pick luxury, late-round archaeology

Roy started with the cleanest asset on the board in Gibbs, then paired Higgins and Egbuka for a strong receiving core. Dak and Kraft keep the lineup respectable. The concern arrives after Round 6, when the draft sheet begins to look like a scout-team depth chart. Great front porch; several rooms still need furniture.

ROSTER REPORTS • 4-6 OF 18

Grades reflect the draft board at the preseason cutoff only.

Maye I Cee Your Woody?

Courtney Duarte

Draft core: CeeDee Lamb (1.14), Kyren Williams (2.23), Tetairoa McMillan (3.50), Drake Maye (4.59), Jonathon Brooks, Jordan Addison, Aaron Jones, Woody Marks, Cooper Kupp

B+
Balanced, deep, and committed to the bit

Courtney landed a legitimate WR1, a dependable lead back, and enough middle-round depth to survive a mediocre week. Maye and Woody Marks also complete a team name with admirable efficiency. The tight-end room is the weak point, but this roster is built to avoid catastrophe rather than win an offseason beauty pageant.

Team madduxf2213

Maddux Fredericks

Draft core: Amon-Ra St. Brown (1.05), Malik Nabers (2.32), Cam Skattebo (3.41), TreVeyon Henderson (4.68), Courtland Sutton, Dalton Kincaid, Matthew Stafford, Zach Charbonnet

A-
Receivers first, panic never

Maddux opened with St. Brown and Nabers, a weekly reception machine designed for half-PPR stability. Skattebo and Henderson add youthful upside without leaving the roster empty at running back. Then he drafted Tyreek Hill, James Conner and Julian Edelman late, proving every strong draft eventually becomes a group chat.

Team Katskitty

Kat Downey

Draft core: De'Von Achane (1.12), A.J. Brown (2.25), Rhamondre Stevenson (3.48), Tyler Warren (4.61), DK Metcalf, Quentin Johnston, Brock Purdy, Deebo Samuel

B+
Explosive enough to escape any blade

Achane and A.J. Brown provide the week-winning ceiling, while Stevenson and Metcalf keep the roster from becoming pure fireworks. Purdy in Round 7 is appropriately boring, which is a compliment in this format. Kat also collected three tight ends, perhaps assuming one could be bartered despite trades being disabled.

ROSTER REPORTS • 7-9 OF 18

Grades reflect the draft board at the preseason cutoff only.

Team danfuller12

Dan Fuller

Draft core: Omarion Hampton (1.17), Javonte Williams (2.20), Davante Adams (3.53), Colston Loveland (4.56), Brian Thomas, Chris Godwin, Kyler Murray

B
Heavy early running backs, wideouts with receipts

Fuller attacked the turn with Hampton and Williams, then built an experienced receiving room around Adams, Thomas and Godwin. The starters look playable; the bench becomes speculative quickly. Three quarterbacks is excellent preparation for a format that starts one, assuming the league suddenly changes its rules during breakfast.

Bobs Already Dead Team

Bob Simmons

Draft core: Jonathan Taylor (1.04), Rashee Rice (2.33), Josh Jacobs (3.40), Jayden Daniels (4.69), Marvin Harrison (5.76), Alvin Kamara (8.141), Jake Ferguson

A-
The team name is doing false advertising

Taylor and Jacobs form one of the safest opening backfields, Daniels supplies nuclear quarterback upside, and Rice plus Harrison give Bob a legitimate receiver base. Kamara in Round 8 is precisely the kind of veteran depth guillotine teams need. The late Odell Beckham pick appears to have been submitted from 2016.

Unholy Alliance

Joe Bettencourt

Draft core: Derrick Henry (1.13), D'Andre Swift (2.24), Terry McLaurin (3.49), Joe Burrow (4.60), Isaiah Likely, Romeo Doubs, Tyler Allgeier, Jauan Jennings

C+
Four quarter backs, one starting slot

Henry, Swift, McLaurin and Burrow give Joe a sturdy opening month on paper. Then the roster construction wanders into a quarterback bunker: Burrow, Geno Smith, Fernando Mendoza and Tua Tagovailoa. It is hard to be chopped because of a quarterback shortage when you have enough of them to form a committee.

ROSTER REPORTS • 10-12 OF 18

Grades reflect the draft board at the preseason cutoff only.

What Clock?

Chris Fournier

Draft core: Puka Nacua (1.10), Ashton Jeanty (2.27), Lamar Jackson (3.46), Rome Odunze (4.63), Rico Dowdle, Michael Pittman, Khalil Shakir, Juwan Johnson

A-
Excellent spine, questionable time travel

Puka, Jeanty and Lamar give Fournier three premium weekly anchors, followed by a deep collection of receivers. Tight end is thin, but the lineup has enough stable volume to stay out of early trouble. Drafting Tom Brady at 243 was either elite comedy or a failure to notice what year the draft room was operating in.

Dirty D

Nick Downey

Draft core: Christian McCaffrey (1.08), George Pickens (2.29), David Montgomery (3.44), Christian Watson (4.65), George Kittle, Jared Goff, Hunter Henry

B
An NFC North reunion with medical paperwork

Downey built around McCaffrey, then stacked power and volatility through Montgomery, Pickens, Watson and Kittle. When healthy, the starters can bully a weekly leaderboard. The phrase 'when healthy' is doing enough work here to qualify for overtime. Goff in Round 8 provides the sort of calm this roster desperately needed.

1stOneOut

Matt 'Mux' Markey

Draft core: Kenneth Walker (1.16), Josh Allen (2.21), Zay Flowers (3.52), Jameson Williams (4.57), J.K. Dobbins, Chuba Hubbard, Xavier Worthy, T.J. Hockenson

B
Named the obituary before kickoff

Mux grabbed Josh Allen early, an understandable attempt to prevent his team name from becoming prophecy. Walker, Flowers, Williams and Hubbard offer a workable weekly core with plenty of spike-week potential. Three quarterbacks and two tight ends use valuable bench oxygen, but nobody can accuse Mux of being unprepared for an extremely specific emergency.

ROSTER REPORTS • 13-15 OF 18

Grades reflect the draft board at the preseason cutoff only.

KP Squad

Ken Pirches

Draft core: Jaxon Smith-Njigba (1.07), Bhayshul Tuten (2.30), Travis Etienne (3.43), Jalen Hurts (4.66), Sam LaPorta, Jakobi Meyers, Jerry Jeudy, Keon Coleman

B
Bold at 2.30, stable everywhere else

Pirches made the draft's first true declaration of independence by taking Tuten at 30. JSN, Hurts and LaPorta keep the roster grounded, while Etienne and a thick receiver bench provide options. Three tight ends suggests Ken either loved the position or believed the guillotine also eliminated roster requirements one week at a time.

Touchdown Tax Evader

Ryan Haskell

Draft core: James Cook (1.09), Chris Olave (2.28), Quinshon Judkins (3.45), Kyle Pitts (4.64), Michael Wilson, KC Concepcion, Josh Downs, Baker Mayfield

C+
Receivers everywhere; running backs missing

Haskell started cleanly with Cook, Olave, Judkins and Pitts. Then he selected wide receiver after wide receiver as if each came with a tax deduction. Baker in Round 8 is solid, but the running-back depth behind the starters is almost entirely theoretical. One injury could send the accountant directly to the chopping block.

Smoove Bouv

Mike Bouvier

Draft core: Bijan Robinson (1.02), DeVonta Smith (2.35), Jeremiyah Love (3.38), Harold Fannin (4.71), Mike Evans, Matthew Golden, Trevor Lawrence, Isiah Pacheco

B+
Bijan plus a surprisingly smooth support cast

Bouvier began with Bijan, then built balance through Smith, Love, Evans and Golden. Lawrence arrived at a reasonable price, and Pacheco in Round 9 gave the backfield another path to points. Four tight ends is less roster construction than a neighborhood association, but the important starters are strong.

ROSTER REPORTS • 16-18 OF 18

Grades reflect the draft board at the preseason cutoff only.

Team RichP69

Rich P

Draft core: Justin Jefferson (1.15), Trey McBride (2.22), Garrett Wilson (3.51), Luther Burden (4.58), Tony Pollard, Blake Corum, Patrick Mahomes

B
Luxury receivers, economy running backs

Rich came away with Jefferson, McBride and Wilson, perhaps the league's strongest three-player receiving foundation. Mahomes in Round 8 was excellent patience. The bill comes due at running back, where Pollard, Corum and Braelon Allen must carry the entire department. The final five picks were all receivers because apparently nine was the minimum order.

You Mayer

Matt Lincoln

Draft core: Chase Brown (1.11), Drake London (2.26), Bucky Irving (3.47), Parker Washington (4.62), Carnell Tate, RJ Harvey, Jaxson Dart, Mark Andrews

B+
Running-back depth with a rookie-shaped heartbeat

Lincoln assembled Brown, Irving, Harvey, Mitchell, Sampson and Najee Harris, ensuring the roster will never lack a running back with something to prove. London and Andrews provide veteran receiving anchors, but the quarterback plan rests on Dart and Brissett. It is a good roster with one very visible emergency exit.

The Strib Club

Rob Fredericks

Draft core: Ja'Marr Chase (1.03), Jaylen Waddle (2.34), Jadarian Price (3.39), Caleb Williams (4.70), Jaylen Warren, De'Zhaun Stribling, Travis Kelce, Brian Robinson

B
A team name drafted in Round 6

Fredericks opened with Chase and Waddle, giving him an elite weekly receiving ceiling. Price and Warren are a more adventurous backfield, while Kelce in Round 7 supplies veteran stability. Drafting Stribling to justify The Strib Club is the kind of brand discipline this publication respects, regardless of whether it helps anyone survive.

DRAFT-NIGHT SUPERLATIVES

Safest Opening Four

Bob Simmons

Jonathan Taylor, Rashee Rice, Josh Jacobs and Jayden Daniels offered weekly stability with genuine eruption potential.

Best Receiver Foundation

Rich P

Justin Jefferson, Trey McBride and Garrett Wilson turned the first three rounds into a luxury receiving district.

Best Guillotine Spine

Chris Fournier

Puka Nacua, Ashton Jeanty and Lamar Jackson supplied three different paths out of the weekly basement.

Most Committed to the Team Name

Rob Fredericks

The Strib Club drafting De'Zhaun Stribling was brand management disguised as roster construction.

Most Quarterbacks for One Quarterback Slot

Joe Bettencourt

Burrow, Geno, Mendoza and Tua. Somewhere, a second starting slot felt deeply appreciated.

Best Historical Reenactment

Maddux Fredericks

Julian Edelman at pick 248 turned the final round into a New England alumni dinner.

Best Retirement Plan

Chris Fournier

Tom Brady at 243: a seven-time champion, an exceptional broadcaster, and a bold choice for an active fantasy lineup.

The Blade's Favorite Gamble

Chris Bettencourt

Brock Bowers at 1.18 was defensible. Waiting until 4.55 for the first running back made the guillotine lean forward with interest.

THE ORIGINAL FIRST ROUND

The preseason ledger, preserved before the blade began to fall.

Pick	Manager	Selection
1	Mike Roy	Jahmyr Gibbs
2	Mike Bouvier	Bijan Robinson
3	Rob Fredericks	Ja'Marr Chase
4	Bob Simmons	Jonathan Taylor
5	Maddux Fredericks	Amon-Ra St. Brown
6	Chris Ditata	Saquon Barkley
7	Ken Pirches	Jaxon Smith-Njigba
8	Nick Downey	Christian McCaffrey
9	Ryan Haskell	James Cook
10	Chris Fournier	Puka Nacua
11	Matt Lincoln	Chase Brown
12	Kat Downey	De'Von Achane
13	Joe Bettencourt	Derrick Henry
14	Courtney Duarte	CeeDee Lamb
15	Rich P	Justin Jefferson
16	Matt 'Mux' Markey	Kenneth Walker
17	Dan Fuller	Omarion Hampton
18	Chris Bettencourt	Brock Bowers

EDITOR'S NOTE

Every football claim, grade and joke in this issue is based solely on Sleeper's completed 2026 draft board and the league settings available at the preseason cutoff. Later scores, roster moves, eliminations and outcomes were deliberately excluded. Player-team labels follow the draft data as recorded by Sleeper.

NEXT ISSUE: THE FIRST NAME GOES ON THE BLOCK.