

Division 1 Prologue:

Right out of the gate we get our 2024 version of the have and the have-nots. Ed managed to shake two years of mediocrity by not only winning 10-games, but by winning the whole... fucking... thing. Tommy did his perennial 6-seed thing by scratching out a 3rd playoff birth in 3-years despite a .500 record. It was a year to forget for both Dukes and Manzo. Because I always like to end these things with a question, I am just going to ask... “How do people with excessive amounts of children expect to compete at a high level in Fantasy Football?”

Tommy:

2024 Record: 7-7

Last 3-years: 22-20

Where we last left off: It was pretty much the same story, different year for Tommy. He constructed a solid albeit not spectacular team that barely made the playoffs. From there, he had a breakout week advancing to Round 2 before regressing to the mean leaving him outside of the championship game where he's remained since beating the guy who can't beat anyone in the finals. My bold take is that one way or another, this car is shifting out of neutral. Whatever happens this year, it won't be mediocre:

QB/Superflex: Herbert, Fields, Flacco:

I probably like this group more than most will and for a very specific reason. Herbert essentially embodies what Tommy's team has been recently which is a solid, but unspectacular performer. He'll play every week, and score enough to be relevant, but with the run-happy chargers throwing the ball less than most teams as Harbaugh tends to do, there's limited upside, here. If it's upside you desire, look no further than Justin Fields. This guy literally has the highest boom or bust potential which is a solid foundation for my bold take on how Tommy's season will go. Flacco as a #3 is kind of like having Greg over to Tommy's house for Sunday Football. He'll likely come out of the gate Week 1, shitting all over the AFC north, but by Week 5, we'll probably forget that he was ever there. Even if he makes it to Week 9 as the starter, he shares a bye week with Fields which defeats the whole

purpose of him being on the roster to begin with. Nevertheless, Fields has me bullish on this group, but even with a half-letter grade bump, it's average at best

Overall Grade: B

RB: Gibbs, K. Williams, Ekeler, K. Johnson

Now we're talking. Rockstar start pairing Kyren Williams with Gibbs. Gibbs is an all-world talent and even if you want to scrutinize Williams, he had the highest percentage of snaps of anyone in football. I love the Kaleb Williams stash as Tommy won't need to use him early with the two studs up top. Ekeler (to put it kindly) is a very Tommy Pick: We all know his name and he was good once, but as they say... Disco doesn't last forever. Once again, I have to acknowledge that Tommy did a poor job aligning his bye weeks and this group lacks the right amount of depth for a perfect grade: Still top of the league stuff, however:

Overall Grade: A

WR: Evans, D. Smith, Jeudy, Pickens, T. Hunter, Jayden Higgins

Rather than pick on Tommy for the vanilla drafting on top, let us focus on the positives of this group. Evans as long as he plays should be his Top 10-self. I have to think the Eagles will throw more this year which should help Devonte Smith. On a personal note, I stupidly made the hero pick of Stefon Diggs knowing full-well that Smith should have been my choice, so Top 5 upside at the position is now in play. I am not sure what to make of Jeudy who didn't bust out until Winston came along last season. It could work with Flacco, or he'll lean on other target monsters like Tillman and Njoku. Even if he doesn't all bets are off once the rookie QBs get their crack. Pickens again falls in the boom and bust zone I so desperately want to see Tommy live in this season. It's a contract year for a team who will throw a shitload, but we can't forget the fact that the guy has torn apart more locker rooms than a union contractor. I am very bearish on Hunter as I have it on good authority that he's actually a much better defensive player than he is, offensive, but still, the Jaguars seem intent on using him predominantly on offense. Just remember, more snaps means more

injury risk and I can assure you, I will be all over Tommy the minute he gets defensive points, despite individual scoring not being part of our settings. I don't miss shit like that. Jayden Higgins is a fine depth stash and Tommy has plenty of guys in front of him to see if this guy will contribute. Solid group that won't fail, but I think it lacks that stud WR1 to make it a spectacular group

Overall Grade: B+

TE: Jake Ferguson

I'd like Ferguson a lot better if Tommy didn't already have Pickens, however, he is a fine plug and play at a position that only moves the needle if you have one of the 3 studs, or a guy who gives you nothing.

Overall Grade: B-

Kicker/Defense: A

How he'll fare: Normally, I am high on Tommy's teams because he is a safe drafter who can manage in season well, but I'm honestly feeling this squad. My main concern lies with RB depth as I feel he won't survive a significant injury to one of his top guys. I like the WRs as a group, but he put himself in a situation where he's likely going to have to match them up, weekly and that's a difficult thing to do. With all that being said, I could be very wrong this year if Fields and Pickens pop the way I think they can and everyone stays healthy. But since I don't want to be a fence jumper, I'll put on tape that the arrow is pointing down, here.

Overall Grade: B-