

CollegeFootballGeek.com's Top 30 Fantasy Running Backs for 2015

1. Ezekiel Elliott, Ohio State

Zeke the Freak finished off the 2014-15 season on about as high of a note as one could ever imagine, racking up a whopping 696 rushing yards and 8 TDs over the final three games against Wisconsin, Alabama and Oregon. He's the best RB on the best team in the land, and a safe bet to top many fantasy draft boards.

2. Nick Chubb, Georgia

Chubb didn't get his first start until October 11th last year when Todd Gurley went down to injury, and yet he still finished the season with 1,547 rushing yards and 14 TDs. Gurley is off to the NFL. Chubb is back, and the Dawgs figure to lean on him early and often.

3. Elijah McGuire, UL-Lafayette

Last season, McGuire shared time with Alonzo Harris and was still able to generate north of 1,700 yards from scrimmage. He's one of the best receiving RBs in the country (45 receptions in 2014), which is huge in PPR formats. With Harris graduating and a manageable schedule on tap, McGuire could put up monster numbers .

4. Devontae Booker, Utah

The Utes' game plan is "Ground and Pound" and Booker is their unquestioned bell cow. Like McGuire above, Booker is a versatile back. Last year he caught 43 balls for 306 yards to go along with his 1,512-10 rushing statline. He has a great chance to crack the 2,000 yards from scrimmage plateau in 2015.

5. Devon Johnson, Marshall

The former tight end appropriately nicknamed "Rockhead" rumbled his way to 1,767 yards and 17 TDs last fall. His numbers would have been even gaudier if he had not missed parts of three games due to knee and shoulder injuries. Johnson will be the focal point of the Herd's attack this year as they break in a new quarterback.

6. Kenneth Dixon, Louisiana Tech

Dixon averaged 25.08 fantasy points per game in 2014, which was good for 10th best amongst running backs. He's a touchdown machine, scoring in every game last season. His 28 TDs marked the second time in his career to hit that incredible number. Other than a road trip to Kansas State, the schedule is absolutely fantasy-friendly.

7. Jarvion Franklin, Western Michigan

Franklin came out of nowhere in his 2014 freshman campaign to rush for 1,551 yards and 24 TDs. Once he gets into MAC play, he will dominate. But he does have to deal with both Michigan State and Ohio State on the non-conference slate, which is daunting.

8. Donald Pumphrey, San Diego State

Not only did Pumphrey rush for 1,867 yards and 20 TDs in 2014, the 5'9 170-pound jitterbug was also the team's third leading receiver (23 receptions). He rushed for 100+ yards in 10 of 13 games a year ago, making him one of the more consistent fantasy producers in the country.

9. Royce Freeman, Oregon

As a freshman last fall, Freeman racked up 1,365 yards and 18 TDs rushing. With backup running back Thomas Tyner out for the season and the Ducks breaking in a new signal caller, Freeman's production should spike significantly in 2015.

10. Leon Allen, Western Kentucky

Allen is the feature back on one of the country's most explosive (and underrated) offenses – usually a recipe for fantasy goodness. He's a complete back, rushing for over 1,543 yards and catching 51 balls for another 473 yards. Allen is dealing with a public drunkenness charge that could lead to some sort of punishment in the season opener. Stay tuned.

11. James Conner, Pittsburgh

Conner is a true workhorse. Last season, he tallied up 30 or more carries on four separate occasions. Can he improve upon his 26 touchdown total? Doubtful. But he should be good for 20-plus. One area that hurts Conner is the receiving game. He only caught 5 balls last season.

12. Kareem Hunt, Toledo

Despite missing three games to injury last fall, Hunt still rushed for 1,631 yards and 16 scores. What kind of numbers can he put up in a full season? He is one of the nation's most explosive performers, with 198, 265 and 271 yard rushing games on his resume.

13. Corey Clement, Wisconsin

The Badgers are a fantasy RB factory, and Clement is the next man up. In a backup role to the incredible Melvin Gordon last fall, Clement rushed for 949 yards and 9 TDs. There is an excellent chance he doubles those numbers this fall.

14. Paul Perkins, UCLA

Stud returning o-line? Check. Breaking in a young quarterback? Check. All the makings are there for another big season from Perkins, who accounted for 1,776 yards from scrimmage and 11 TDs in Brett Hundley's offense a year ago. This year, he'll be The Man for the Bruins.

15. Samaje Perine, Oklahoma

Perine was magnificent as a freshman in 2014, rushing for 1,713 yards and 21 scores. However, he'll be dealing with some significant changes to the offense this fall that could make it difficult for a repeat performance. The offense is moving to more of a pass-happy Air Raid attack under new OC Lincoln Riley, and the Sooner's lost the majority of their o-line to graduation. The heavily recruited Joe Mixon is also back on the roster and could eat into Perine's playing time.

16. Nick Wilson, Arizona

It looks as though RichRod has finally found himself a stud running back, something he never accomplished during his time in Ann Arbor. As a freshman last fall, Wilson rushed for 1,395 yards and 16 scores, and he got stronger as the season progresses. It'll be his show in 2015.

17. Leonard Fournette, LSU

Fournette could be the most physically gifted running back in the nation, but that doesn't necessarily equate to incredible fantasy production. As a freshman last fall, he rushed for 1,034 yards and 10 TDs. He should be able to drastically improve upon those numbers in 2015. But Les Miles is a tricky guy to figure out. Will he lean heavily on Fournette or spread the wealth?

18. Marcus Cox, Appalachian State

The Mountaineers made the move up from FCS to FBS last fall, but the upgrade in competition didn't stop Cox from rushing for over 1,400 yards and 19 TDs. The team makes the full-time move into the defensive-challenged Sun Belt Conference in 2015, and Cox should continue to produce.

19. Daniel Lasco, Cal

Lasco is a good receiving running back on a team with a horrible defense. This is a good thing. With Cal often playing from behind in shootouts, Lasco takes advantage and racks up plenty fantasy points in garbage time. He should be able to replicate his 1,500 yards from scrimmage from a year ago.

20. Alex Collins, Arkansas

Collins shared time with Jonathan Williams at RB last fall, forming one of the best 1-2 combinations in the country. Both Hogs rushed for over 1,100 yards and 12 TDs. Williams is reportedly undergoing foot surgery that will leave him out for an "extended period of time", paving the way for Collins to seize more of the workload this fall, and thus boosting his fantasy stock tremendously.

21. Derrick Henry, Alabama

Henry was part of a 1-2 punch with T.J. Yeldon a year ago. With Yeldon off to the NFL, Henry will assume the feature role in the Tide's rushing game. He should be able to put up Eddie Lacy or Trent Richardson-like numbers.

22. Aaron Jones, UTEP

Jones flies under the radar due to the fact that he's at UTEP, but you need to take him seriously. The Miner racked up over 1,600 yards and 14 TDs from scrimmage in 2014. He has added value in PPR formats (30 receptions). Most of his o-line returns and the schedule sets up nicely for him to improve upon those statistics.

23. Aaron Green, TCU

Green's 2014 numbers don't jump off the page (1,100 yards from scrimmage, 11 TDs), but with B.J. Catalon moving on, he should play a bigger role in the Horned Frog's potent offense this fall. He's a dual threat running back who has the ability to catch the ball out of the backfield. With TCU expected to score 45 points per game, Green figures to get plenty of work.

24. Demario Richard, Arizona State

Head coach Todd Graham moved leading rusher D.J. Foster over to receiver, which tells you that he must like what he has seen from Richard on the practice field. The Sun Devils have a tasty non-conference schedule which should allow Richard to get out of the blocks quickly.

25. Michael Gordon, Arkansas State

Don't be fooled by Gordon's so-so 1,100-13 rushing statline from a year ago. He was dealing with injuries for the first month of the season and did not get back to top form until Week 6.

26. Travis Greene, Bowling Green

The Falcon offense never lived up to expectations last year after starting quarterback Matt Johnson was lost for the year. And Greene suffered as a result. With Johnson back under center, hopes are high that Greene can approach his 1,594 rushing yard statline from 2013.

27. Justin Jackson, Northwestern

Jackson surprised pundits with his breakout freshman campaign, rushing for 1,187 yards and 10 scores. Keep in mind that he didn't truly take over the starting role until Week 4. He posted six 100-yard rushing performances in his final eight games despite teams keying on him each week.

28. Shock Linwood, Baylor

Linwood rushed for 1,252 yards and 16 TDs in 2014. In Baylor's high-flying attack, he should easily be able to reproduce those stats again this fall. The only disappointing thing about Linwood is that he doesn't catch the ball out of the backfield often (7-90-0).

29. Christian McCaffrey, Stanford

The Cardinal have a great track record of producing stud fantasy RBs – see Toby Gerhart, Steffan Taylor and Tyler Gaffney. Is McCaffrey next in line? He came on strong at the tail end of the season, and is expected to be the centerpiece of the offense in 2015.

30. Jalen Hurd, Tennessee

Hurd is yet another sophomore-to-be that made a splash as a freshman. The 6'3, 225-pounder accounted for 1,100 yards from scrimmage last season, while snagging 35 receptions. JUCO transfer Alvin Kamara could vulture some of those receptions, but Hurd will definitely be the team's primary ball carrier.