

Ladd Biro's Top 60 Wide Receivers

Rankings are based on each player's projected position by the end of the 2009 season. This is a value ranking, NOT a recommended draft order. Players may be drafted significantly higher or lower based upon their perceived value to other owners. Stats listed are from 2008.

RANK	Levels PLAYER	Elite TEAM	Near Elite GP	Solid REC	Marginal YDS	Flier REC TDS	Updated: 9/7/09	
							Comment	
1	Randy Moss	NE	16	69	1,008	11		Brady's back, and he's looking Moss' way already. Watch them rekindle the magic from 'the '07 season.
2	Calvin Johnson	DET	16	78	1,331	12		If he can put up those stats with the likes of Daunte Culpepper, Drew Stanton, Dan Orlovsky and Jon Kitna, Megatron can do it with Matthew Stafford.
3	Larry Fitzgerald	ARI	16	96	1,434	12		The only reason he's not my #1 is because the odds are stacked against any player repeating at the top position in consecutive years. Even the Great Fitz. OK, I also worry about Kurt Warner's hip. Leinart-to-Fitz just doesn't sound the same.
4	Greg Jennings	GB	16	80	1,292	9		Another outstanding player who cashed in this offseason. Jennings is the top dog in one of the best WR corps around.
5	Reggie Wayne	IND	16	82	1,145	6		Peyton Manning's go-to target is always a solid WR1. He could conceivably double last year's TD production if things fall in place.
6	Andre Johnson	HOU	16	115	1,575	8		I love the Houston offense as long as Schaub stays intact. AJ has proven he can catch anything thrown by anybody, but he's clearly at his best with Schaub. Last year's 8 TDs were a career high though.
7	Steve Smith	CAR	14	78	1,417	6		There's nothing he can't do on the field. Only question mark is the effectiveness of his QB. His shoulder bruise should be a non-issue come Week 1.
8	Anquan Boldin	ARI	12	89	1,038	11		Assuming he stays in Arizona (which appears all but certain), there's no reason Boldin won't remain an elite option. Injuries are a constant worry, but he should start in Week 1 without limitations.
9	Roddy White	ATL	16	88	1,382	7		His receptions could fall due to Gonzo's presence, but he's still an elite WR in arguably the league's most balanced and explosive offense.

10	Marques Colston	NO	11	47	760	5	If he can stay on the field, there's no reason Drew Brees' top target can't be an elite WR. So far, he's looked outstanding in camp.
11	Chad Ocho Cinco	CIN	13	53	540	4	Lots of ifs surrounding this one, but a healthy Palmer-Ocho combo could post big numbers for both. With Housh in Seattle, Ocho Cinco is the undisputed #1 again. You might even get kicking points out of him!
12	Wes Welker	NE	16	112	1,165	3	The top possession receiver in the game gets his All World QB back under center. Look for similar receptions and yards, along with an uptick in TDs. He could miss Week 1, however, with an undisclosed injury.
13	Terrell Owens	BUF	16	69	1,052	10	There's no way he'll post double-digit TDs with Trent Edwards as his QB. Look for a modest drop in TO's production in frigid Buffalo, or a substantial one if his toe doesn't mend quickly.
14	Dwayne Bowe	KC	16	86	1,022	7	Cassel's presence gives hope that Bowe will finally achieve his potential. But it may take time for the two to jell. He's emerged from his coach's doghouse and has looked sharp so far in preseason action.
15	T.J. Houshmandzadeh	SEA	15	92	904	4	Should quickly become Matt Hasselbeck's go-to receiver. Housh is still young, and should rebound nicely from a disappointing '08.
16	Kevin Walter	HOU	16	60	899	8	Now the unquestioned #2 WR, Walter needs only to shed the "up one week down the other" label. Houston's offense has awesome upside, and Walter is a big part of it. Quietly racked up as many TDs as Johnson last season. Questionable for Week 1.
17	DeSean Jackson	PHI	16	62	912	2	A training camp injury (hyperextended knee) cost him some valuable reps, but the second-year sensation should take the next steps in Philly's formidable offense.
18	Eddie Royal	DEN	15	91	980	5	I ranked him above teammate Marshall from the outset. Other "experts" are finally starting to join me. That's because Royal is expected to be used in multiple ways (possession, long ball) and Marshall is quickly wearing out his welcome with his new head coach.
19	Santonio Holmes	PIT	15	55	821	5	The Super Bowl MVP should finally emerge as a productive fantasy WR. But then again, I said that last year at this time.
20	Braylon Edwards	CLE	16	55	877	3	He'd put up better numbers if Derek Anderson wins the QB job, but that doesn't seem likely. Edwards was pretty awful last season, so this ranking assumes a decent rebound.

21	Vincent Jackson	SD	16	59	1,098	7	I'm a huge believer in Philip Rivers, so I have to give some love to his top WR. Jackson is no Randy Moss, but he's good enough to get the job done.
22	Lee Evans	BUF	16	63	1,017	3	With T.O. pulling double teams, Evans will finally have the chance to work against single coverage. That could finally allow him to reach his potential.
23	Donald Driver	GB	16	74	1,012	5	He's the old man of the Packers' WR corps, but he still has great hands and decent speed. No reason he can't be a solid fantasy starter for another year.
24	Hines Ward	PIT	16	82	1,047	7	The aging veteran just continues to produce. He'll start declining eventually, but until then, he's as reliable a WR2 as you can get.
25	Lance Moore	NO	16	79	928	10	His upside is very real. Injuries, and competition from Devery Henderson and Robert Meachem, keep his stock in check with me.
26	Torry Holt	JAX	16	64	796	3	His best days are far behind him, and now he needs to form a bond with a new QB in a new system. He'll have a handful of decent games, but don't count on much better.
27	Roy Williams	DAL	15	36	430	2	Romo's marching orders will be clear: Get the ball to Roy. Neither can afford to fail. But a shoulder contusion will cost him at least two weeks of reps with Romo.
28	Bernard Berrian	MIN	16	48	964	7	The assumption is that Berrian will be the top WR target on one of the most stacked offenses in the NFL. Whether that translates to consistent production is the question. A hamstring injury suffered in the first preseason game has cost him a few slots, and he needs to work on his timing with Favre.
29	Brandon Marshall	DEN	15	104	1,265	6	A lingering hamstring injury and a complete lack of familiarity with Kyle Orton are real concerns. A team suspension for conduct detrimental to the team puts him further behind. No telling what role he'll play in the early going.
30	Santana Moss	WAS	16	79	1,044	6	Moss is extremely inconsistent year-over-year, and even game-to-game. With Malcolm Kelly expected to step up, Moss' targets will likely drop.

31	Jerricho Cotchery	NYJ	16	71	858	5	The unchallenged #1 in NY, he will likely struggle with whichever QB is under center. No competent bookend of the other side means he could draw regular double teams.
32	Antonio Bryant	TB	16	83	1,248	7	You'll have to take him much earlier to get him. Don't bother. He is virtually certain to come down from last year's high, especially after undergoing knee surgery in early August. May not be ready by Week 1.
33	Donnie Avery	STL	15	54	684	3	Until a stress fracture in his foot ruined his training camp, Avery was the only legitimate fantasy WR on the Rams squad. Now that he has healed miraculously, he vaults back up the rankings.
34	Anthony Gonzalez	IND	16	57	664	4	Expected to fill the void left by Marvin Harrison, Gonzalez will still be the third target behind Wayne and TE Dallas Clark.
35	Percy Harvin	MIN	R	*	*	*	Mark my words: Harvin will be the top rookie WR of '09. Will produce as a receiver, a runner, a returner and even a wildcat QB.
36	Domenik Hixon	NYG	16	43	596	2	It's hard to know exactly how the Giants' WR corps will shake out, but Hixon appears to be a lock at one starting job. He showed flashes last season when given the chance.
37	Chris Henry	CIN	12	19	220	2	Though he'll enter the season as the #3 WR, I expect him to outperform newcomer Coles. Henry has great rapport with Palmer, and he's the biggest playmaker on the offense.
38	Derrick Mason	BAL	16	80	1,037	5	Now that he's un-retired, Mason will resume his role as the most consistent WR in Baltimore. As steady and consistent as they come.
39	Laveranues Coles	CIN	16	70	850	7	Needs to develop chemistry with new QB in new system. Will be pushed from Day One by Chris Henry.
40	Patrick Crayton	DAL	16	39	550	4	Though Miles Austin has more game-breaking ability, Crayton appears to have the upper hand for the #2 job. His ceiling is fairly low, however.
41	Earl Bennett	CHI	10	0	0	0	A sleeper who's expected to secure a starting job now that Vanderbilt teammate Cutler is QB, there's a long way between 0 catches and fantasy stardom. Take him late.
42	Steve Smith	NYG	3	24	241	0	The other likely starter for Eli, Smith is worth a late-round flier as he arguably has more upside than Hixon.

43	Devin Hester	CHI	15	52	665	3	Just not convinced he can make a complete transition from return ace to full-time WR. His speed makes him dangerous, but he's too unpolished.
44	Steve Breaston	AZ	16	77	1,003	3	The #3 WR in Arizona will have his moments. Just not consistently, or in any predictable fashion.
45	Troy Williamson	JAX	8	5	30	1	Has looked terrific in preseason and has secured the starting gig opposite Torry Holt. Might he actually shed the bust label from his days in Minnesota?
46	Chris Chambers	SD	14	33	462	5	He appears to be on a significant slide. That's too bad, because he got off to a great start in '08, and he's playing in a high-scoring offense.
47	Ted Ginn, Jr.	MIA	16	56	790	2	Way too inconsistent to trust, this is a make-or-break season for Ginn. There's little indication that he will "make" it.
48	Justin Gage	TEN	12	34	651	6	You'd like to think the top WR on a 13-3 team would be a fantasy stud. Alas, not. Don't count on much better this season, despite all the positive vibes from camp.
49	Brian Robiskie	CLE	R	*	*	*	Sometimes it's better to be lucky than good. Robiskie is both, having been selected in the second round out of Ohio State and cast into a wide-open competition for a starting gig. Not a game-breaking threat, but rather a solid possession receiver with high football IQ. Should be starting by Week 1.
50	Davone Bess	MIA	16	54	554	1	If he secures a starting job, Bess could prove to be a nice bye-week fill-in, with upside.
51	Josh Morgan	SF	12	20	319	3	Hard to get excited about any 49er WR.
52	Michael Jenkins	ATL	16	50	777	3	Could this be the year he finally plays up to his NFL Draft position? Doubtful, but with Matt Ryan at the helm, it's possible.
53	Mark Clayton	BAL	16	41	695	3	His value soared while Derrick Mason was retired. Now, it's back to the bottom of the heap, especially given his nagging hammy.
54	Jeremy Maclin	PHI	R	*	*	*	Rookie WRs are notoriously slow starters, but Maclin could very well match DeSean Jackson's '08 results by year's end. He should supplant Kevin Curtis as a starter by mid-season.

55	Sam Hurd	DAL	3	0	0	0	0	0	I thought Miles Austin would secure the No. 2 WR position, but he's fallen behind both Crayton and Hurd, who's been the best WR throughout training camp. Consider him the deepest of sleepers.
56	Muhsin Muhammad	CAR	16	65	923	5			A decent bye-week fill-in, but it's a young man's game, and he's not young any more.
57	Chaz Schilens	OAK	16	15	226	2			Before a preseason injury, he was a great late-round sleeper option. Now he's just someone to consider as a free-agent pickup when he completes rehab.
58	Kenny Britt	TEN	R	*	*	*			Now that Nate Washington has been lost for a significant period, the rookie should waltz into the starting lineup. Still, he's a Titan, so you can only expect so much.
59	Hakeem Nicks	NYG	R	*	*	*			Could claim a starting job at some point. Clearly has the talent, but he's still raw.
60	Malcolm Kelly	WAS	5	3	18	0			After a rookie season lost to injury, Kelly has earned a starting job opposite Santana Moss. He has very real upside should he establish solid rapport with his QB. A very deep sleeper.