Seasonal Point Totals for NFL Players

The purpose of this file is to document methods, hurdles, and outcomes for forecasting the season fantasy point totals for NFL players in the position of QB, WR, RB, and TE.

Rookies

Current ideas for projecting NFL rookie performance in the NFL:

* Draft position
* Combine performance
* Depth chart/position vacancy
* School
* Age

Rookies are challenging to predict because they don’t have historic NFL data. It’s easy enough to pull combine and draft investment data, but it’s important to understand the dynamic of the team that selected them. A team can select a high round WR, but if they have several strong WR options already, it may be difficult for that WR to have a meaningful impact early on. To account for this, I will track, for a roster heading into week 1, what the avg, per game, output of the year 2+ WRs were in the previous year. In a perfect world, I would know the depth chart data for these players, but because of external factors such as season ending injuries, this is a dirty field to clean.

Results

A simple grid search over and XGBoost model resulted in solid performance for all position groups. Performance metrics for the position groups were:

Ideas

* Explore quantile loss projections