

Reynolds: Awards Market Analysis, Week 4

RYAN REYNOLDS // SEP 23, 2025



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Heading into Week 4, I'm going to focus on two awards markets: the MVP and Defensive Player of the Year races. Both markets have standalone favorites in great positions over the next month, while both have mispriced long shots who you can get at an extreme value between sportsbooks.

If I find anything I like, I will drop in the betting channel of Discord to discuss, and odds in this column may change throughout the week.

MVP Notes

Josh Allen (+250) and **Justin Herbert** (+500) would be the two players voters would consider if the season ended today. As mentioned in the last installment of this column, **both have appealing schedule stretches**, so expect them both to be at the top of this race heading into midseason a month from now.

Lamar Jackson (+300) is actually the second favorite in this market, because he's been the most productive quarterback to date despite Baltimore's 1-2 start.

Baker Mayfield (+1800) is in a strong position from a productivity position, and his Buccaneers have started 3-0 in the very winnable NFC South. My concern with Mayfield is Tampa's schedule through Week 12: vs. PHI, at SEA, vs. SF, at DET (MNF), at NO, Bye, Week 10 vs. NE, Week 11 at BUF, and Week 12 at LAR. On the bright side, if the Bucs are going to finish the year as the NFC's top seed, they face most of the biggest challengers to that position during this stretch. On the downside, the Bucs face four to five premium opponents with a tough trip to Seattle during this stretch.

If **Jordan Love** (+1400 to +1600 DraftKings) is going to take a leap in this race, he gets the Cowboys in prime time this week and then the Bengals on the other side of Green Bay's Week 5 bye. You could argue those are the worst two pass defenses in the league.

Patrick Mahomes (+1900 to +2500 FanDuel) is interesting from a number of angles. First, he's never been available at these long of odds this early in the season in MVP markets. That's happened because the Chiefs are 1-2 and Mahomes isn't even close to contention statistically. Kansas City hosts the Ravens next week as 2.5-point underdogs. If they win that game, Mahomes' odds likely jump in this race. If the Chiefs lose, Mahomes' short-term schedule is: at JAX (MNF), vs. DET (SNF), vs. LV, and vs. WAS (MNF). That's a stretch with three prime-time showcases, with four games against average or worse defenses, where Mahomes is well positioned to roar back into this race as he gets back his best pass catchers in **Xavier Worthy** and **Rashae Rice**. I'll address this situation specifically in the betting channel of Discord next week.

Jared Goff (+3000 to +3500 DraftKings) can be had at a moderate value on DraftKings, and if I were an oddsmaker, I'd have him in the +1600 range after beating the Ravens in Baltimore on Monday Night Football. Goff is also in a solid position statistically through three weeks. Over the next four weeks, Goff has a mixed bag schedule-wise: vs. CLE, at CIN, at KC (SNF), and vs. TB (MNF). A 3-1 record through this stretch is very on the table, with two prime-time showcases with matchups against two tough defenses (Browns and Chiefs) and two very beatable pass defenses (Bengals and Buccaneers). Goff has never won an MVP, but he's been in the mix several times over the course of his career.

MVP Value Option: Daniel Jones (+4000 to +8000 DraftKings)

If you've been reading this column over the last half-decade, you may already know that talking about Jones in an MVP race genuinely makes me sick to my stomach.

However, he has played very well for a 3-0 Colts team that sits atop the extremely winnable AFC South. I expect Jones to regress, but he has no business being available at 80-1 odds on DraftKings.

Defensive Player of the Year Notes

Nick Bosa's season-ending knee injury puts Micah Parsons (+300 to +350) even further in the driver's seat in this race. It's far too early in the season to be talking about betting on +350 favorites, but Parsons gets the Sunday night showdown, in Dallas, against a beat-up Cowboys team next. If Parsons goes nuts — and he's the sort of guy who probably will — I could see this being a situation where he drops below even money in this race and never looks back if he remains productive. Parsons is the most famous defender in the league, he has the best narrative this season changing teams, the Packers are better positioned to make the playoffs than most other contenders, and Parsons is currently the guy that "deserves" a DPOY win.

The next-best contenders, Aidan Hutchinson (+600 odds, 2.0 sacks) and Jared Verse (+1500, 1.0 sacks), have solid but unspectacular early foundations. T.J. Watt (+2000) had two sacks against the Patriots and has much longer odds than you'd expect at first glance. However, early on, he hasn't quite looked like himself, until he faced one of the league's worst offensive lines last week.

DPOY Value Option: Rashan Gary (+10000 to +15000 DraftKings)

Gary plays on the same team as Parsons, but he currently leads the league with 4.5 sacks and was the No. 12 overall pick in 2019. Gary is a player that I have referred to many times in this race over the years because he fits the traditional profile of DPOY winners. If I were an oddsmaker, I'd have Gary in the +2500 range. Not only can you get the NFL's current sack leader, who also has a showcase game against banged-up Dallas, at a major value, but this is one of the biggest mispricings I've seen in years in an NFL awards market.

[Green Bay Packers, Rashan Gary, Betting, In-Season Package, Ryan Reynolds' Awards Betting Analysis](#)



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