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Strength in Numbers: Actionable Week 3 Stats

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We're going to get a lot of stuff wrong, but sifting through usage metrics can help us work through what matters and what doesn't. That's the goal of this article: to break down the most actionable takeaways from each week in a concise, numbers-filled format and work through what's important. Let's get right to it:

1. In Week 1, **De'Von Achane** played 33 of 36 snaps with **Tua Tagovailoa**. In Week 2, he played 93% of snaps overall. In Week 3, his snap rate was still solid at 77%, but **Ollie Gordon II** got nine carries to Achane's 12 and scored a short goal-line touchdown. It's possible the Dolphins simply involved Gordon more on a short week, but the fact that Miami gave him high-leverage snaps (near the goal line) indicates real trust and a potentially larger rushing role for Gordon moving forward relative to what we saw in Weeks 1-2. Achane still has the highest-volume pass-catching role of any running back in football with nine targets on 34 attempts. **Jaylen Wright** was active but did not play.

2. One week after playing only 50.7% of snaps, **Keon Coleman**'s snap rate jumped back up to 75%. **Khalil Shakir** played less than half of the Bills' offensive snaps in Week 2, but that number rebounded to 70%. Buffalo seemingly played it safe with their top WRs in Week 2 in a blowout before a short week.

3. **Ty Johnson** out-snapped **Ray Davis** 15-4, and PFF's Nathan Jahnke pointed out that Johnson played seven early-down snaps to Davis' three. Johnson also maintained his role as the primary pass-down back. After more than a year of Davis directly backing up **James Cook** on early downs with Johnson as the pass-down back, it appears that Johnson is coming for the early-down RB2 role as well.

4. **Kyle Pitts** ran 43 routes on 45 dropbacks, matching his 96% route rate in Week 2. While he only had 4/39/0 on six targets on Sunday, the role is legitimately elite. The Atlanta passing offense overall has been well below average, but Pitts is finally getting the every-down role fantasy managers have been clamoring for for years.

5. With Atlanta in negative game script, **Bijan Robinson** out-snapped **Tyler Allgeier** 53-6, out-carried him 13-1, and out-targeted him 6-1. Allgeier is a thorn in the side of Robinson managers in games where Atlanta is leading, but he's a near-zero when the Falcons go down.

6. **Ray-Ray McCloud** played just 23% of snaps in Week 2 with Atlanta leaning into 2-TE sets against a Minnesota defense that couldn't stop the run. With ATL in negative game script vs. Carolina, McCloud's snap rate rebounded to 70%.

7. **David Moore** only had one target (**Brycen Tremayne** had two), but he led Carolina WRs in snap rate at 97% with **Xavier Legette** out. Moore has a stranglehold on the backup outside WR role evidently, despite Tremayne getting real run in Week 2. If Legette misses Week 4, Moore would be the favorite for that role again. **Jalen Coker** is eligible to return in Week 5. **Hunter Renfrow**'s snap rate was understandably crushed in Week 3 as a slot-only WR for a team that played from ahead all game.

8. **Quinshon Judkins** handled 18 of 19 RB carries for the Browns, just five practices into his NFL career. **Jerome Ford** out-snapped **Dylan Sampson** 9-3 on third downs (PFF) and Ford had four targets (Judkins

one; Sampson zero), so Judkins still isn't playing on pass downs at all. Still, Cleveland is clearly committed to their second-round pick as their base back of the future, and Sampson/Ford's rushing roles have been reduced to effectively zero with Judkins back. The offense as a whole will remain a concern, especially once **Dillon Gabriel** gets the nod, but the rushing role for Judkins is very strong.

9. Isaiah Bond is the WR3 (excluding **Harold Fannin Jr.**) in Cleveland. He out-snapped **Jamari Thrash** 43-12.

10. Matthew Golden and **Dontayvion Wicks** each had four targets, but Golden out-snapped and out-routed Wicks, and Golden caught all four of his targets for 52 yards. Wicks is the primary slot man for Green Bay with **Jayden Reed** out, and that role landed him third among WRs in snaps and routes (just like it did for Reed). Also notable is that **Romeo Doubs** played 89% of snaps and ran 29 routes on 31 dropbacks without Reed; he didn't top a 74% snap rate during the first two weeks.

11. Emanuel Wilson seems like he regained the RB2 role in Green Bay after **Chris Brooks** held it during Weeks 1 and 2. Wilson had six carries to Brooks' zero.

12. It's happening: Houston has a two-man backfield. **Dare Ogunbowale** played zero snaps after holding the pass-down role in Weeks 1-2. **Nick Chubb** and **Woody Marks** each played five third-down snaps, and Marks out-snapped Chubb 10-1 in the 2-minute drill (via Jahnke). Marks only played three fewer snaps than Chubb in total, and he had six carries to Chubb's nine. The rookie from USC is making a dent in Chubb's workload, and strong performance in the future could win him the RB1 job outright. We're assuming **Joe Mixon** is out indefinitely.

13. Christian Kirk made his Texans debut in Week 3. He played 67% of snaps and trailed only **Nico Collins** with eight targets for a 21.1% target share, though he only turned that volume into three catches for 25 yards. Kirk eked out **Xavier Hutchinson** in routes 33-31 (**Jayden Higgins** was a very distant fourth with 15). Kirk had a stranglehold on the WR2 job in the preseason, even playing as the second outside WR despite his history as a slot guy, so we'll see whether his snaps climb as he distances himself from the injury.

14. Parker Washington, not **Travis Hunter**, took over as the WR2 opposite **Brian Thomas Jr.** after **Dyami Brown** went down. Hunter had just two targets on 40 team pass attempts, and he only played 53% of snaps as the clear WR3. Washington played 71% of snaps. The outlook for Hunter isn't great as long as he remains a slot-only type who only plays in 3-WR sets. For now, he's best left as a bench stash.

15. Brian Thomas Jr. salvaged his day late with a long catch and run to set up Jacksonville for the game-winning touchdown, but he still only caught two of six targets (15% share). **Parker Washington** had 11 targets for a 27.5% share. The splits with and without **Mac Jones** for BTJ get more concerning by the week. You can't sell him after the start he's had, and he's still the clear WR1 for the Jaguars by playing time, but I wouldn't be aggressively buying low on him either, given the spread-out targets in Week 3 and the clear lack of rapport with **Trevor Lawrence**.

16. Bhayshul Tuten had six carries, including a goal-line touchdown run. But he only played 17% of snaps compared to 54% for **Travis Etienne**. **LeQuint Allen Jr.** remained the pass-down option for Jacksonville. Etienne wasn't overly effective with 15 carries for 56 yards, and he only scored because the Texans let him score to get the ball back sooner, so that inefficiency bodes well for Tuten's future outlook. But strictly from a usage standpoint, he took a step back from Week 2 if anything.

17. Jahnke noted that **Jordan Mason** played 75% of snaps before garbage time and that **Cam Akers** didn't play until garbage time. Mason was incredibly effective with 16 carries for 116 yards and two scores on the ground. **Zavier Scott** played some on pass downs and in the 2-minute drill, but Mason split snaps there, too, and we've seen Minnesota use him in those situations already this season. Given the outlier game script, it's a hard game to learn a lot from, but Scott/Akers didn't come close to matching the **Aaron Jones** role, which is good news for Mason.

18. Noah Fant got concussed and didn't return. He fumbled in the first half, as did everyone on the Bengals, and Cincinnati turned to **Mike Gesicki** on the next drive, but it was largely **Cam Grandy** who took on a larger role without Fant. Grandy was active for the first time this season in Week 3 and played 12 snaps. Gesicki interestingly only played 17 snaps and had just two targets despite the extreme negative game script, a large disruption from what we've seen previously in these scripts from him. We'll see what happens next week if Fant misses, but the Fant-less usage for Gesicki was discouraging.

19. Jaylen Warren is taking over the Pittsburgh backfield. He played a season-high 80% of snaps in Week 3, out-carrying **Kenneth Gainwell** 18-4, out-routing him 15-6, and out-targeting him 6-1. Gainwell began the season as the primary pass-down back but has lost his grip on that role. The only issue for Warren: He's averaging just 3.1 yards per carry after posting a 4.8 mark through the first three years of his career. YPC is a notoriously noisy stat, but between that and Warren's lack of history as a workhorse at the pro level, there's some risk his role declines at some point. Gainwell has similarly never shown the ability to command double-digit touches per game in the NFL, and **Kaleb Johnson**'s most notable contribution so far is donating a touchdown to the Seahawks in Week 2. Warren's in a really good spot for the short term.

20. DK Metcalf has 17 targets to **Calvin Austin III**'s 15 through the first three weeks of the year.

21. Rhamondre Stevenson fumbled twice, including once at the goal line. He played only five snaps after his second fumble. The Patriots turned to **Antonio Gibson** after that, and then he fumbled. That paved the way for **TreVeyon Henderson** to lead the New England backfield with 46% of snaps, 11 of 22 RB carries, a backfield-best 19 routes on 47 dropbacks (still not very good), and three targets. Henderson was an explosive per-touch back at Ohio State but hasn't quite found the same efficiency in the pros, particularly painful given a productive Week 3 could have earned him the lead back role for the rest of the season. Usage-wise, the declining trust in Stevenson and Gibson after three combined fumbles bodes well, but it's still hard to be confident at all in Henderson's Week 4 role.

22. Stefon Diggs remains in a heavy rotation, playing only 52.7% of snaps and running 26 routes on 47 dropbacks in Week 3. The uptick in playing time we're looking for with Diggs coming off the 2024 ACL tear hasn't come to fruition yet, and he has to remain on fantasy benches until the playing time increases.

23. Kyren Williams played 75.8% of snaps in Week 3 after **Sean McVay** indicated he wanted Kyren to rotate more with **Blake Corum** moving forward. For most running backs, that's a very good role. For Williams, who played 87.5% of snaps in 2024, it's a big downgrade from what we're used to seeing. Still,

Williams out-carried Corum 20-8 and hauled in a short receiving touchdown. The role is still very good; it's just no longer the insane **Kyren Williams** role we're used to seeing. Corum has also quietly been very effective so far this year (5/44/1 in Week 2, 8/53/0 on Sunday), giving McVay no reason to shift back toward full Kyren.

24. Dallas Goedert played 91% of snaps and ran 33 routes on 37 dropbacks in his return to the field in Week 4. No concerns moving forward.

25. Josh Reynolds was out again. This week, the Jets turned to **Arian Smith** as their WR2, as the rookie out-snapped **Tyler Johnson** 54-48. He only had two targets and **Garrett Wilson** had a season-low 36.1% target share (insane) — no non-Wilson Jets WR is fantasy-relevant.

26. Mike Evans left with a hamstring injury. **Chris Godwin** could return in Week 4 — it's a huge question mark how much he'd play after such a serious injury. Even if Godwin returns, it's worth mentioning that **Tez Johnson** out-snapped **Ryan Miller** 21-18 and out-routed him 11-5. **Sterling Shepard** has primarily played in the slot so far (54.6% of snaps in the slot) but could transition into an every-down role if Evans and Godwin both miss.

27. With **Tyler Goodson** back, **Jonathan Taylor** still played 78.9% of snaps, ran 22 routes on 27 dropbacks, and handled 17 of 20 running back carries. Taylor has arguably the best role in fantasy football right now and will contend for the overall RB1 title.

28. Alec Pierce left with a concussion. That allowed **Adonai Mitchell** to step into the WR3 role. This is notable because, while efficiency has eluded Mitchell so far, he's been an incredible target earner, getting 0.29 targets per route run in his rookie season and an absurd eight targets on 21 routes through three weeks this year. Mitchell playing a full-time role is worse for **Michael Pittman Jr.**, **Tyler Warren**, and **Josh Downs** than having Pierce out there as a pure field stretcher.

29. Tyler Lockett out-routed **Chimere Dike** 29-15, but the snap count was only 38-29 in Lockett's favor. The Titans continue a rotation for their slot receiver role.

30. Van Jefferson's snap rate has unfortunately risen each week of the season, from 12% in Week 1 to 26% last week to 34% in Week 3. **Elic Ayomanor** remains the clear WR2, but his 74% snap rate in Week 3 and 76% route rate isn't enough to be near a fantasy starting lineup, especially with the offense struggling this badly. Ayomanor is a fine bench stash.

31. Michael Mayer left early due to injury, paving the way for **Brock Bowers** to play 83.3% of snaps and run 31 routes on 34 dropbacks; although he only managed four catches for 38 yards on five targets. Still, the increased role for Bowers sans Mayer is nice to see.

32. Ashton Jeanty handled 17 carries for the Raiders but struggled with efficiency again, managing just 63 yards (3.7 yards per carry). He also recorded zero targets, **Dylan Laube** played the 2-minute drill again, and **Zamir White** ran 10 routes compared to 16 for Jeanty. Rookies start slow most of the time, but when you invest a first-round fantasy pick in a player, you need immediate production. It's been a disappointing start for Jeanty in that regard, and the decreased pass-down role over the past two weeks relative to Week 1 is also not what you want to see.

33. With **Austin Ekeler** out, **Chris Rodriguez Jr.** drew the start at running back for Washington. He carried the ball 11 times to **Jacory Croskey-Merritt**'s eight, though JCM scored a short touchdown. **Jeremy McNichols** handled all the pass-down work as expected, playing six of seven snaps on third downs and all four snaps in the 2-minute drill (per Jahnke). McNichols also busted off a 60-yard touchdown on one of his four carries. With JCM and Rodriguez splitting early-down work and McNichols handling the passing downs, it's very difficult to trust any Commanders RB as a fantasy starter right now.

34. The Commanders led the whole game. That potentially contributed to decreased playing time for both **Deebo Samuel** (42% of snaps) and **Zach Ertz** (53%), but the playing time of both is worth monitoring heading into Week 4. **Terry McLaurin** left early with a quad injury. Other than McLaurin and Deebo, Washington went with an extreme rotation at WR with **Noah Brown** sidelined. **Chris Moore** actually led the non-Deebo/McLaurin WRs with 15 routes, followed closely by **Luke McCaffrey** and **Jaylin Lane** (11 each). **Marcus Mariota** dropped back 23 times, meaning none of the Washington WRs went out for enough routes to be interesting for fantasy. Samuel and Ertz's playing time should rebound next week assuming tighter game script, and we'll see what the statuses are for McLaurin and Brown.

35. It was a much quieter day for **Troy Franklin**, but the full-time role stuck. Franklin ran 31 routes on 33 dropbacks and looks like he has emerged from the dreaded **Sean Payton** WR rotation to be the Broncos' every-snap WR2. He needs to be rostered everywhere but is best left on benches with **Courtland Sutton** (6/118/1 on Sunday) the only Denver WR worth starting. **Pat Bryant**'s increased Week 2 role did not stick; he ran two routes.

36. Lucas Krull ran 18 routes on 33 dropbacks as the **Evan Engram** replacement. He had one target, and then he caught a ball off a deflection on a pass that wasn't actually thrown to him. Denver had a 13.1% team RB target share in 2024 without Engram. No Denver TE besides Engram is worth knowing for fantasy.

37. Tyler Badie spent Weeks 1 and 2 as the clear pass-down option for Denver, but he played just two snaps on Sunday. **J.K. Dobbins** and **RJ Harvey** split third-down snaps (five each, per Jahnke) with Dobbins as the primary RB in the 2-minute drill. This is still a **Sean Payton** offense, and Badie is liable to regain his role at any time, but this is a positive development for both Dobbins and Harvey for the time being.

38. Najee Harris tore his Achilles. **Hassan Haskins** played seven snaps but did not record a carry or target. He has yet to get a carry this season. Per-touch efficiency has still evaded **Omarion Hampton** so far, but he'll now step into an enormous every-snap role with Harris absent. Hampton played all nine snaps in the 2-minute drill and out-snapped Haskins 12-2 on third downs (per Jahnke), so the Chargers clearly trust him in all situations. He's a legit fantasy RB1 the rest of the season.

39. Kenneth Walker III played 30 of 39 snaps before garbage time, and while he only managed 2.4 yards per touchdown, he housed two carries and added a 12-yard reception. **George Holani** is the clear RB2 here, but this is Walker's backfield as long as **Zach Charbonnet** remains out. Nine of Holani's 10 carries came with **Drew Lock** at quarterback, meaning Walker got 16 of 17 RB carries with **Sam Darnold**.

40. CeeDee Lamb left early with an injury, tried to return for one snap, and couldn't go. **Jalen Tolbert** ascended into a full-time role and led the Cowboys with 42 routes on 47 dropbacks, but he only turned that role into three catches (six targets) for 24 yards. **Jake Ferguson** took on a massive workload without Lamb, recording 14 targets for a 31% share and catching 13 of them for 82 yards.

41. Miles Sanders had four carries on Dallas' final drive with **Joe Milton III**. Before that, **Javonte Williams** led 10-5 in carries, still far closer than it had been in the previous two games. Williams got the ball taken away with him on the Cowboys' first drive deep in Chicago territory, potentially contributing to the decreased workload. Jahnke noted that Williams' first-half workload was similar to what it was in Weeks 1 and 2, and then Sanders out-snapped him in the second half. Part of this was the blowout game script, but that in itself displays some downside risk to Williams' weekly outlook. **Jaydon Blue** was a healthy scratch for the third straight game.

42. Colston Loveland played six snaps before exiting due to injury. That allowed **Cole Kmet** to play 93% of snaps and run 23 routes on 29 dropbacks, but he only turned that workload into a 1/10/1 line on his only target.

43. Luther Burden III played a season-high 29% of snaps and led the Bears with three catches for 101 yards and a long touchdown. Burden still played significantly less than **Olamide Zaccheaus** (58% of snaps), but the increase in snaps paired with the productive outing bodes very well for the rookie's future. Burden is a premier waiver wire add this week, although he still has a ways to go before he's actually worth considering as a fantasy starter. Still, this is a path we've seen many times before where a talented rookie begins the year buried on the depth chart but forces his way onto the field through good performance.

44. James Conner is out for the year after an ankle injury. **Trey Benson** is now the presumptive starter. Benson began the year as the third-down back in this offense, but **Emari Demercado** played five third downs after Conner went down. That will be a big spot to watch next week: Does Benson take over a three-down role, or does Demercado take the pass downs? It's possible the Cardinals simply want to involve two running backs, and Benson will inherit the Conner role with Demercado taking the Benson role. Benson out-carried Demercado 10-2 and seems clearly preferred on early downs.

45. With **Jauan Jennings** out, **Kendrick Bourne** stepped in as the WR2, running 35 routes on 43 dropbacks and hauling in four of six targets for 38 yards. Considering Jennings seemed relatively close to playing in Week 3, he should be back next weekend, though that's obviously worth monitoring. **Skyy Moore** was the WR3 over **Marquez Valdes-Scantling**, out-routing MVS 27-8. He caught his only target. **Ricky Pearsall** (11) and **Christian McCaffrey** (15) combined for 26 of **Mac Jones**' 41 targets with Jennings and **George Kittle** out.

46. Despite pregame reports that the Giants planned to expand **Cam Skattebo**'s role, **Tyrone Tracy Jr.** drew the start for New York. He had seven carries for 29 yards in the first half before leaving with a shoulder injury, paving the way for Skattebo to assume lead back duties. In total, Skattebo toted the rock 10 times for 60 yards and a touchdown to go along with six catches on eight targets for 61 yards (all of those led the team). We'll see how long Tracy is out, but Skattebo ran well, and Tracy faces a large risk of falling to the clear backup role by the time he's healthy again. Skattebo out-snapped **Devin Singletary** 39-16 and ran 23 routes on 37 dropbacks. He's a must-start fantasy option in Week 4 if Tracy misses.

Jacksonville Jaguars, Travis Hunter, In-Season Package