



Buy Leone RB Underperformers

MIKE LEONE // SEP 1, 2025



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The Buy Leone RB model is a machine learning algorithm that uses a player's recent opportunities to predict future performances (PPR points per game).

More specifically, the model looks at every carry and target a player has seen over the last six weeks. The model provides an expected fantasy-point outcome for each individual target based on a variety of factors, most importantly:

- Team Scoring Expectation
- Air Yards
- Carries
- Goal-Line Carries
- Down and Distance
- Defenders in the Box

Those expected fantasy points become the primary input into a model that weights recent performance at a higher weight than past performance and incorporates aggregate per-game totals, such as Air Yards, targets, and fantasy points.

Our goal is to have an objective process to find the players whose opportunity has out-paced their actual results. Through that, we're identifying players who have a high likelihood of beating their last three-game average moving forward.

In order to isolate the most potentially profitable players, we are comparing the Buy Leone model prediction against a player's rolling three-game fantasy-point average (going back no further than the previous six NFL weeks) and filtering out all players who don't meet the following criterion:

- Buy Leone prediction greater than rolling three-game fantasy-point average
- Minimum eight fantasy-point prediction via Buy Leone model
- Minimum eight fantasy-point projection via ETR's Weekly Projections

This model will improve as the year goes on. Currently, the RB model is using only 2022 data (WR and TE models reach back into 2021 a little bit). Thus, the sample size is small (two weeks). As we get further into the season, the model will use the last six NFL weeks.

It's important to keep in mind that the Buy Leone model by design minimally accounts for player talent and surrounding team talent. This is intentional to keep the model as objective as possible. Still, it's important to keep in mind that:

- Past player opportunity doesn't guarantee future player opportunity (this is accounted for in the machine learning process)

-Player, team talent, and upcoming matchup are all important factors that may be undervalued by the model

As a result, Adam Levitan is leaving his context-adjusted takeaways and commentary below the model results.

Essentially, this is a list of guys who haven't performed as well as their past opportunity indicates. Fantasy players who aren't paying attention might be too down on their future prospects, and we think it's good context to keep it in mind for DFS, trading, and more.

Enough housekeeping, here are the model results:

KEY

- Buy Leone Proj – Mike Leone's machine learning algorithm's projected future PPR PPG, based primarily on recent player opportunity
- Last 3 FPPG – A player's average PPR PPG over their last three games (currently just 2022 PPR PPG)
- Under Performance – The difference between a player's Buy Leone Proj and their Last 3 FPPG.
- *DFS Proj – A player's weekly PPR projection based on ETR's DFS projections

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Player	Position	Team	Opponent	Buy Leone Proj	Last 3 FPPG	Under Performance	DFS Proj
Josh Jacobs	RB	GB	DAL	14.9	13.6	1.3	18.6
Omarion Hampton	RB	LAC	NYG	13.9	12.2	1.7	15.7
D'Andre Swift	RB	CHI	LV	12.5	12.1	0.4	13.5
Chase Brown	RB	CIN	DEN	12.0	9.2	2.8	15.3
Tony Pollard	RB	TEN	HOU	11.8	11.0	0.8	13.5
Breece Hall	RB	NYJ	MIA	11.1	10.5	0.6	16.1
Nick Chubb	RB	HOU	TEN	10.1	9.4	0.7	11.6

*DFS Proj is at time of publication. To see up-to-date weekly fantasy-point projections, click here: <https://establishtherun.com/fantasy-point-projections/>.

ADAM LEVITAN'S CONTEXT

- * Incredible spot for **Josh Jacobs**. No-brainer bounceback against Dallas after getting suffocated by Cleveland in Week 3.
- * With Najee Harris done, **Omarion Hampton** is looking at at least 80% of the RB touches. Smash.
- * The Bengals offensive line performance in the run game has been just as bad as the Raiders. Really tough to see it for **Chase Brown** against Denver.
- * **Tony Pollard**'s workload remains elite, but Cam Ward doesn't throw to RB and the offense is broken. And they have their fourth straight brutal matchup, this time against Houston.
- * Great matchup for **Breece Hall**, just know Braelon Allen going to play plenty.
- * I don't click **Nick Chubb**, ceiling is drawing to multiple touchdowns for a bad offense.

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