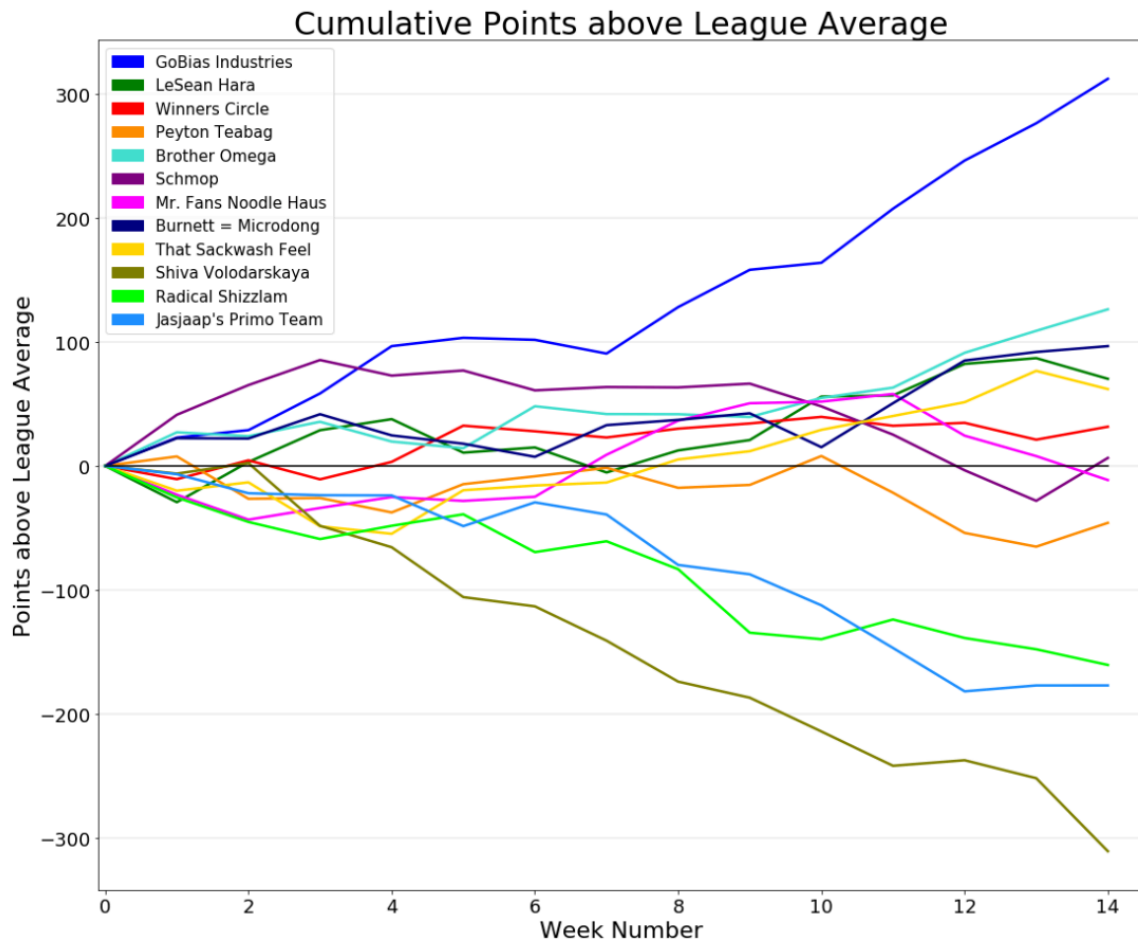


Season Recap: 2017

With the 2017 DKEheads fantasy football season in the books, it's time to reflect on a record-breaking campaign. We'll delve into the good, bad, and the ugly (mostly ugly). It was a season of extreme highs and lows, featuring arguably the greatest and worst teams in our league's six-year history.

Final Standings				
Team	Record	Points For	Points Against	PPG
GoBias Industries	12-2	1619.60	1316.84	115.69
LeSean Hara	9-5	1377.80	1246.38	98.41
Winners Circle	9-5	1339.20	1153.00	95.66
Peyton Teabag Party	9-5	1261.72	1238.58	90.12
Brother Omega	8-6	1433.82	1345.32	102.42
Schmop	8-6	1314.02	1261.38	93.86
Mr. Fans Noodle Haus	7-7	1296.22	1233.00	92.59
Burnett = Microdong	6-8	1404.16	1341.82	100.30
That Sackwash Feel	6-8	1369.52	1399.98	97.82
Shiva Volodarskaya	4-10	997.06	1373.40	71.22
Radical Shizzlam	3-11	1147.18	1394.28	81.94
Jasjaap's Primo Team	3-11	1130.68	1387.00	80.76

Semifinals		
GoBias Industries	126.78 - 52.68	Peyton Teabag Party
LeSean Hara	127.72 - 115.34	Winners Circle
Championship		
GoBias Industries	141.82 - 75.26	LeSean Hara



The black horizontal line represents the league (mean) average in cumulative points at a given week. For example, at the end of Week 4, GoBias Industries had 456.50 total points when the league mean was 359.92, so he was 96.58 points above average.

GOBiAs industries (GOAT?)

As illustrated in the plot above, Schulwolf's team humiliated the competition this year. The gap in points between GOBias Industries and the No. 2 team (Brother Omega) was larger than the gap between the No 2. and No. 9 (Peyton Teabag Party) teams. From Weeks 8-14 (the entire second half of the season), GOBias Industries averaged 127.66 points per game, and posted the highest score in the league in six out of seven weeks.

Team_Name	Week 8	Week 9	Week 10	Week 11	Week 12	Week 13	Week 14
GoBias Industries	132.58	117.58	99.32	140.92	136.42	131.38	135.44
LeSean Hara	112.92	95.9	128.64	98.3	122.98	106.02	82.92
Winners Circle	102.26	91.72	98.96	90.2	99.94	87.76	110.04
Peyton Teabag	79.02	89.86	116.94	67.8	65.16	90.28	118.78
Brother Omega	95.02	85.28	108.98	105.68	125.68	119.04	116.94
Schmop	94.84	90.56	75.34	74.56	68.88	76.72	134.14
Mr. Fans Noodle Haus	122.62	101.56	94.92	103.56	63.98	84.88	80.3
Burnett = Microdong	99.38	92.82	66.34	132.8	131.96	108.26	104.32
That Sackwash Feel	113.76	94.18	110.86	108.5	108.72	126.62	84.88
Shiva Volodarskaya	62.12	74.6	66.4	69.68	102.06	86.88	40.74
Radical Shizzlam	72.62	36.34	88.4	113.26	82.66	92.26	86.94
Jasjaap's Primo Team	54.5	79.98	68.62	63	62.62	106.1	99.6

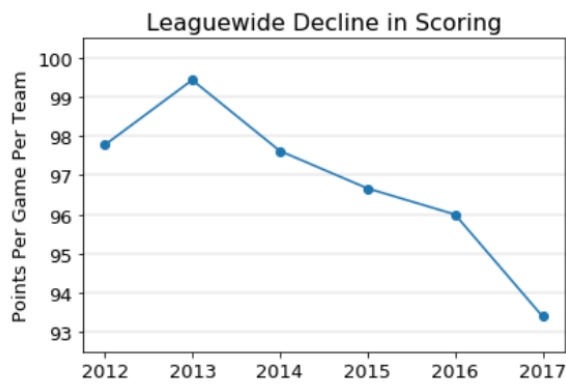
Weekly Scores, Weeks 8-14

GOBias Industries then rolled through the playoffs, defeating Kitchell's Peyton Teabag Party 126.78 - 52.68 in the semifinals and Eli's LeSean Hara 141.82 - 75.26 in the finals. By almost every metric, GOBias Industries was the strongest team in league history.

Top 10 Teams in League History (by Total Points)

Team_Name	Owner	Year	Record	Playoffs	Champion	Points	Points Per Game
GoBias Industries	Schulwolf	2017	12-2	Y	Y	1619.6	115.69
Radical Shizzlam	Kevin	2016	9-5	Y	Y	1579.32	112.81
The Comeback Kid	Codola	2013	9-5	Y	N	1575.38	112.53
E.V.I.L.	Tommy	2014	8-6	Y	N	1561.86	111.56
Herbin Legends	Brand	2012	12-2	Y	N	1530.7	109.34
JaBlackus Russell	Mike	2012	7-7	N	N	1527.62	109.12
GoBias Industries	Schulwolf	2013	10-4	Y	Y	1516	108.29
EBDB Vinegar Strokes	Codola	2015	8-6	Y	N	1513.42	108.1
Cheefin' Cheebahs	Juleon	2013	9-5	Y	N	1499.54	107.11
Schmop	Burnett	2016	12-2	Y	N	1498.32	107.02

Schulwolf's campaign was particularly impressive given that league-wide scoring declined significantly in 2017. Fantasy teams scored an average of 93.4 points per game (PPG) this season, down considerably from previous years. The primary reason for this decline? Likely poor quarterback play/injuries in the real NFL.



Points Per Game	
2012	97.8
2013	99.4
2014	97.6
2015	96.7
2016	96
2017	93.4

The Playoff Hunt: “Best of the Rest”

The head-to-head nature of fantasy football means that the four teams that qualify for the playoffs are rarely the four best teams. This year was no exception. Schulwolf and Eli deserved their spots, but Cam’s team (Winners Circle) was average and Peyton Teabag Party was one of the weakest playoff squads in recent memory. Here’s how the four playoff teams compare to contenders from past seasons:

Playoff Teams Ranked by 1) Points and 2) Points Relative to League Average

	Team_Name	Owner	Year	Points	Points Per Game
1	GoBias Industries	Schulwolf	2017	1619.6	115.69
2	Radical Shizzlam	Kevin	2016	1579.32	112.81
3	The Comeback Kid	Codola	2013	1575.38	112.53
4	E.V.I.L.	Tommy	2014	1561.86	111.56
5	Herbin Legends	Brand	2012	1530.7	109.34
6	GoBias Industries	Schulwolf	2013	1516	108.29
7	EBDB Vinegar Strokes	Codola	2015	1513.42	108.1
8	Cheefin' Cheebahs	Juleon	2013	1499.54	107.11
9	Schmop	Burnett	2016	1498.32	107.02
10	Bullsack	Brenton	2014	1470.96	105.07
11	Herbin Legends	Brand	2013	1462.54	104.47
12	Runcible Spooning	Codola	2012	1446.22	103.3
13	HOLDmyDIIIIICK	Will	2012	1425.96	101.85
14	Mr. Fans Noodle Haus	Jay	2015	1420.5	101.46
15	B' Word Fat	Codola	2014	1400.88	100.06
16	Schmop	Burnett	2014	1397.7	99.84
17	LeSean Hara	Eli	2017	1377.8	98.41
18	Winners Circle	Cam	2017	1339.2	95.66
19	Lannister Incest	Tommy	2012	1334.14	95.3
20	PVGP Allstar	Eli	2015	1323.54	94.54
21	Peyton Teabag	Will	2016	1295.54	92.54
22	Peyton Teabag	Will	2017	1261.72	90.12
23	Shiva Volodarskaya	Todd	2015	1242.08	88.72
24	Jasjaap's Primo Team	Jasjaap	2016	1132.44	80.89

	Team_Name	Owner	Year	Points above League Mean	PPG above League Mean
1	GoBias Industries	Schulwolf	2017	312.02	22.29
2	Radical Shizzlam	Kevin	2016	235.30	16.81
3	E.V.I.L.	Tommy	2014	195.13	13.94
4	The Comeback Kid	Codola	2013	183.30	13.09
5	Herbin Legends	Brand	2012	161.87	11.56
6	EBDB Vinegar Strokes	Codola	2015	160.07	11.43
7	Schmop	Burnett	2016	154.30	11.02
8	GoBias Industries	Schulwolf	2013	123.92	8.85
9	Cheefin' Cheebahs	Juleon	2013	107.46	7.68
10	Bullsack	Brenton	2014	104.23	7.44
11	Runcible Spooning	Codola	2012	77.39	5.53
12	Herbin Legends	Brand	2013	70.46	5.03
13	LeSean Hara	Eli	2017	70.22	5.02
14	Mr. Fans Noodle Haus	Jay	2015	67.15	4.80
15	HOLDmyDIIIIICK	Will	2012	57.13	4.08
16	B' Word Fat	Codola	2014	34.14	2.44
17	Winners Circle	Cam	2017	31.62	2.26
18	Schmop	Burnett	2014	30.96	2.21
19	PVGP Allstar	Eli	2015	-29.81	-2.13
20	Lannister Incest	Tommy	2012	-34.69	-2.48
21	Peyton Teabag	Will	2017	-45.86	-3.28
22	Peyton Teabag	Will	2016	-48.48	-3.46
23	Shiva Volodarskaya	Todd	2015	-111.27	-7.95
24	Jasjaap's Primo Team	Jasjaap	2016	-211.58	-15.11

A few takeaways:

- Aside from GoBias Industries, this year’s playoff field was fairly mediocre.
- Kitchell was extremely fortunate to make the playoffs in consecutive years (2016-2017).
- Jasjaap’s playoff team in 2016 was truly atrocious.

- This isn't a popular narrative, but Codola dominated the league from 2012-2015, qualifying for the playoffs each year.
- Jacobson has never qualified for the playoffs (!) – largely due to bad luck.

After his playoff-clinching win in Week 14 (which knocked me out of contention), Kitchell taunted asked me to run a statistical analysis of how much his team deserved to make the playoffs. To evaluate the merit of his playoff appearance, I re-ran 100,000 simulations of the season. I assumed that each team's weekly score was normally distributed based on the mean and standard deviation of their regular season scores.¹ I actually ran two rounds of simulations: 1) a "regular" simulation of the 14 week-by-week matchups and 2) a "fair" simulation with the same matchups from Weeks 1-11 but randomly selected matchups from Weeks 12-14. The second chart is a better proxy for evaluating whether a team "deserved" to make the playoffs because it controls for strength of schedule. The results are below:

Simulations: "Regular" Version								
Team	Actual Record	Expected Wins	Expected Losses	Points in Avg. Simulation	Expected Position	Playoffs (% of sims)	Top Finisher (% of sims)	Sacko (% of sims)
<i>GoBias Industries</i>	12-2	11.01	2.99	1619.79	1.5	96.8%	70.8%	0.0%
<i>Brother Omega</i>	8-6	8.71	5.29	1433.58	3.9	65.3%	9.0%	0.1%
<i>That Sackwash Feel</i>	6-8	8.34	5.66	1369.86	4.7	51.4%	5.3%	0.1%
<i>LeSean Hara</i>	9-5	8.11	5.89	1378.11	4.9	47.7%	4.6%	0.2%
<i>Burnett = Microdong</i>	6-8	7.96	6.04	1404.37	5.0	46.7%	4.9%	0.2%
<i>Winners Circle</i>	9-5	7.77	6.23	1339.21	5.5	35.9%	2.5%	0.3%
<i>Schmop</i>	8-6	7.14	6.86	1313.88	6.4	24.6%	1.5%	0.7%
<i>Mr. Fans Noodle Haus</i>	7-7	6.94	7.06	1296.08	6.8	20.2%	1.0%	0.9%
<i>Peyton Teabag</i>	9-5	6.00	8.00	1261.88	8.0	8.7%	0.3%	2.6%
<i>Radical Shizzlam</i>	3-11	4.74	9.26	1147.12	9.7	1.8%	0.0%	11.5%
<i>Jasjaap's Primo Team</i>	3-11	4.49	9.51	1130.49	10.0	1.0%	0.0%	14.8%
<i>Shiva Volodarskaya</i>	4-10	2.79	11.21	996.72	11.5	0.0%	0.0%	68.6%

Simulations: "Fair" Version								
Team	Actual Record	Expected Wins	Expected Losses	Points in Avg. Simulation	Expected Position	Playoffs (% of sims)	Top Finisher (% of sims)	Sacko (% of sims)
<i>GoBias Industries</i>	12-2	10.78	3.22	1619.8	1.6	97.0%	70.1%	0.0%
<i>Brother Omega</i>	8-6	8.66	5.34	1433.78	3.7	69.3%	10.4%	0.0%
<i>Burnett = Microdong</i>	6-8	8.09	5.91	1403.49	4.5	55.2%	6.3%	0.1%
<i>LeSean Hara</i>	9-5	7.68	6.32	1378.06	5.1	44.8%	4.3%	0.3%
<i>That Sackwash Feel</i>	6-8	7.6	6.40	1368.97	5.3	42.3%	3.7%	0.3%
<i>Winners Circle</i>	9-5	7.27	6.73	1338.98	5.8	32.2%	2.1%	0.4%
<i>Schmop</i>	8-6	6.84	7.16	1313.77	6.5	24.3%	1.6%	0.8%
<i>Mr. Fans Noodle Haus</i>	7-7	6.6	7.40	1296.09	6.8	19.7%	1.1%	1.1%
<i>Peyton Teabag</i>	9-5	6.1	7.90	1261.4	7.6	12.1%	0.5%	2.0%
<i>Radical Shizzlam</i>	3-11	4.59	9.41	1146.98	9.6	2.0%	0%	11.2%
<i>Jasjaap's Primo Team</i>	3-11	4.18	9.82	1130.58	10.1	1.0%	0%	15.6%
<i>Shiva Volodarskaya</i>	4-10	2.62	11.38	996.99	11.5	0.0%	0%	68.2%

¹ The normal distribution is actually a decent assumption for describing the probability distribution of team-level fantasy points. For most teams, the mean and median scores over 14 games were relatively equal (so distribution is symmetric). The standard deviations for most teams were around 18-20 points. Interestingly, scores outside +/- 1 standard deviations were more common than expected (37% vs. 32%), but scores outside +/- 2 SDs almost never occurred (however this was only tested on a small sample size).

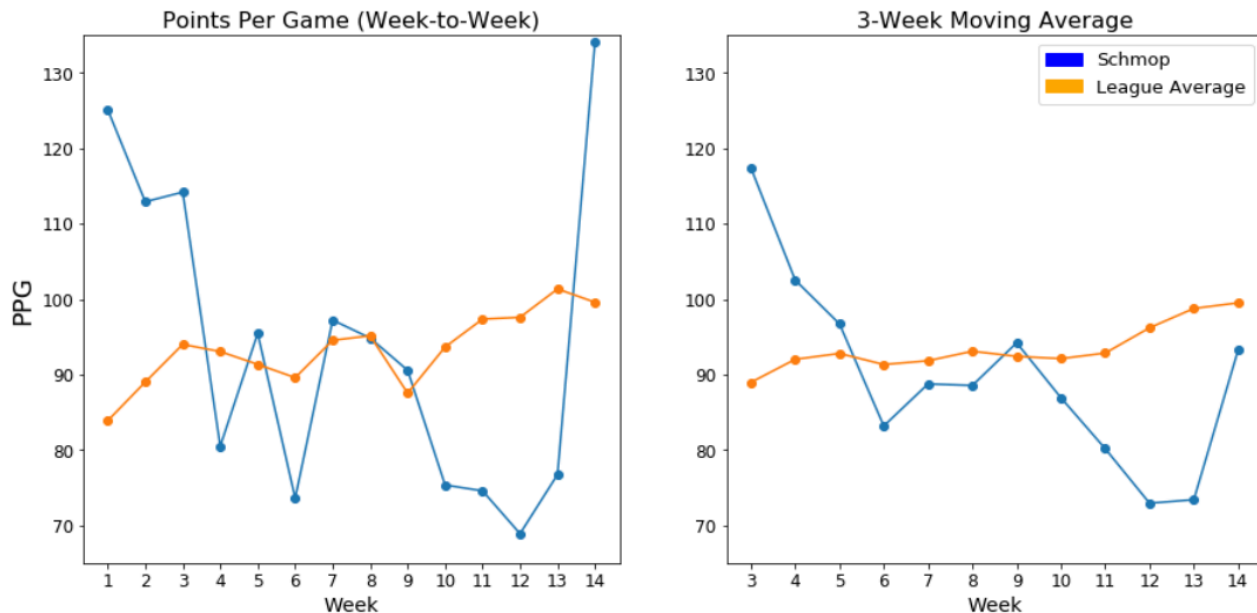
Observations:

- Kitchell qualified for the playoffs in 12% of simulations under the “Fair” scenario, which is actually higher than my initial prediction of “sub-10%”.
- Brother Omega made the playoffs in roughly two-thirds of simulations, but failed to qualify in the real season.
- Despite faring well in the simulations, Burnett = Microdong and That Sackwash Feel finished in 8th and 9th place in the real season.
- On paper, That Sackwash Feel had one of the easiest schedules in the league, facing Jasjaap’s Primo Team, Shiva Volodarskaya, and Schmop twice. (This explains why Tommy’s playoff chances are considerably higher in the “Regular” scenario versus the “Fair” scenario). Bizarrely, however, Tommy ended up facing the toughest schedule in the real season, as his opponents averaged 100.0 points per week against him (tops in league).
- The simulations might slightly underestimate Winners Circle because they don’t account for Cam’s strong playoff performances (115.34 and 112.26 points in two games)
- You might argue that the percentage for GOBias Industries finishing at No. 1 should be higher than 70% of simulations. Why only 70%? These models implicitly consider the idea that Schulwolf’s (or any team’s) performance this season may not be a true reflection of the team’s actual strength. For example, is Todd Gurley good enough to score 20 points per game in every season? Probably not.
- Shiva Volodarskaya finished in 12th place in 68% of simulations. Todd is very lucky that he doesn’t need to take the ACT...
- Given how poorly Todd’s team played, Jasjaap was unfortunate to get the Sacko, as he finished rock bottom in only 15% of simulations. Amazingly, Jasjaap scored nearly the same number of points (1130.68) in 2017 as his playoff-bound team in 2016 (1132.44). Talk about regression to the mean. Happy studying!

Burnett's Midseason Collapse

At the 3-week mark, it looked like Burnett's team (not Schulwolf's) would be in the running for best team in league history. Bolstered by Kareem Hunt's sensational start, Schmop was just the second team ever to score over 110 points in each of the first three games. (Funnily enough, the only other team to accomplish this feat was Schmop in 2016). However, Burnett followed this fast start with a 10-game stretch of stunning ineptitude, failing to reach 100 points in each of the next ten weeks. Schmop posted an impressive score in Week 14, but it was "too little, too late" to salvage a once-promising season.

Burnett's Midseason Swoon



Cam's Waiver Wire Madness

Having missed the playoffs in his first two years in the league, Cam was determined to change the script in 2017. He was by far the most engaged owner in league history, making 71 waiver wire moves. The persistence paid off, as almost 60% of Winners Circle's total points (906.14 of 1566.80) came from post-draft acquisitions.

Top 10: Waiver Pickups per Season			
Team	Owner	Year	Acquisitions
Winners Circle	Cam	2017	71
The Comeback Kid	Codola	2013	54
Herbin Legends	Brand	2013	48
EBDB Vinegar Strokes	Codola	2015	47
Mr. Fan's Noodle Haus	Jay	2017	40
Gee Whiz Darnell	Brenton	2015	37
Shiva Volodarskaya	Todd	2015	36
Bullsack	Brenton	2014	35
Oh Crud. David Brand	Brenton	2016	34
Mr. Fan's Noodle Haus	Jay	2015	34

Bottom of the Barrel

The league saw three unusually poor teams this year, each scoring less than 82 points per game. I won't be too harsh in this section but will let the numbers speak for themselves. Shiva Volodarskaya was unfortunate to lose David Johnson in Week 1, but...yeah just look at the charts below.

10 Lowest-Scoring Teams in League History						
Team_Name	Owner	Year	Record	Playoffs	Points	Points Per Game
Shiva Volodarskaya	Todd	2017	4-10	N	997.06	71.22
Rudy's Revengencers	Osborn	2013	0-14	N	1015.76	72.55
Yes	Lerner	2012	3-11	N	1100.86	78.63
Jasjaap's Primo Team	Jasjaap	2017	3-11	N	1130.68	80.76
Jasjaap's Primo Team	Jasjaap	2016	8-6	Y	1132.44	80.89
Radical Shizzlam	Kevin	2017	3-11	N	1147.18	81.94
Someone Has to Lose	Tommy	2015	2-12	N	1166.76	83.34
Shiva Volodarskaya	Todd	2014	6-8	N	1194.38	85.31
Kegel the Elf	Eli	2012	4-10	N	1223.68	87.41
Shiva Volodarskaya	Todd	2015	9-5	Y	1242.08	88.72

Mean-Adjusted				
Team_Name	Owner	Year	Points Below League Average	PPG Below League Average
Rudy's Revengencers	Osborn	2013	-376.33	-26.88
Shiva Volodarskaya	Todd	2017	-310.52	-22.18
Yes	Lerner	2012	-267.97	-19.14
Jasjaap's Primo Team	Jasjaap	2016	-211.58	-15.11
Someone Has to Lose	Tommy	2015	-186.59	-13.33
Jasjaap's Primo Team	Jasjaap	2017	-176.90	-12.64
Shiva Volodarskaya	Todd	2014	-172.36	-12.31
Radical Shizzlam	Kevin	2017	-160.40	-11.46
Kegel the Elf	Eli	2012	-145.15	-10.37
Mr. Fans Noodle Haus	Jay	2014	-123.76	-8.84