

TEN

LATE-ROUND

RB TARGETS

10 LATE-ROUND RB TARGETS FOR 2023

Every season, at least one or two running backs emerge from late-round obscurity to win fantasy football championships for their teams. Just ask anyone who had Jamaal Williams or Kenneth Walker last year, or Cordarrelle Patterson in 2021.

Identifying which RB(s) will obliterate their ADP is often the difference between winning your league and coming up short.

These league winners come in all shapes and sizes. On one end of the spectrum, you've got RBs locked in true committees with each back having a distinct role. On the other side, you've got your pure handcuffs who are unlikely to contribute unless the player ahead of them gets injured.

There's a time and place for all different archetypes, and we generally recommend mixing what kinds of backs you're drafting. You don't want to end up with exclusively insurance RBs who won't do anything in Week 1 or only have complementary pass-catching backs who lack elite upside.

With that in mind, let's dig into some of the late-round RBs we like the most right now:

DAVID MONTGOMERY (ROUND 7)

Detroit drafted Jahmyr Gibbs with the 12th overall pick and the rookie should step in immediately as the primary pass-catching back, but Montgomery could lead the Lions in carries after signing a three-year, \$18 million deal in March. He's also an ideal fit for the goal-line role that just allowed Jamaal Williams to lead the league in rushing touchdowns.

***Archetype:** RB2 with standalone value and massive contingent upside*

JAMES COOK (ROUND 7)

Cook was pushing Devin Singletary for RB1 duties by the end of last season and should have the pass-catching role to himself with Damien Harris and Latavius Murray as his only relevant competition. Harris/Murray may siphon goal-line looks and some early-down carries, but Cook still has intriguing upside as a committee back on one of the best offenses in football. Cook has also drawn rave reviews during Bills' training camp.

Archetype: Top-two option in ambiguous backfield

A.J. DILLON (ROUND 9)

Aaron Rodgers' departure may hinder the Packers' offense as a whole, but that's baked into Dillon's ADP. At its core, this is basically the same bet as it was last year: Dillon will split early downs with Aaron Jones and offers league-winning potential if something happens to his committee mate.

Archetype: RB2 with standalone value and massive contingent upside

ANTONIO GIBSON (ROUND 9)

Gibson was exiled to special teams duties at one point last offseason, but he shockingly rose from the ashes to post an 11.4% target share on the year. With J.D. McKissic gone, Gibson should get plenty of passing-game looks in 2023. He himself noted that he will be filling the McKissic role this season.

Archetype: Committee back with pass-catching floor and contingent upside

SAMAJE PERINE (ROUND 10)

Offseason reports on Javonte Williams have been optimistic, but it's still a catastrophic knee injury he's returning from, and that comes with risk. If Williams isn't himself in 2023, Perine could fill a three-down role in what should be a much-improved offense. Even if Williams is fine, Perine will be a solid complementary back with a passing-down skill-set and enormous contingent upside.

Archetype: Potential starter in ambiguous backfield

BRIAN ROBINSON (ROUND 10)

Robinson dominated carries in the latter half of his rookie season (97 carries in his final five games) and the Commanders only added sixth-round pick Chris Rodriguez as competition. Sam Howell and Eric Bieniemy add a layer of uncertainty to an offense that had a double-digit negative PROE in seven of its final eight games, but Robinson should get fed carries regardless of what the Washington offense looks like.

Archetype: Undervalued starter

JAYLEN WARREN (ROUND 12)

There were points last year when the Steelers gave Warren the passing-down role over Najee Harris, plus the former undrafted free agent would ascend into must-start territory if Harris misses time. He should have a real role in Week 1 and would move into must-start status if Harris suffers an injury.

Archetype: RB2 with standalone role and massive contingent upside

TANK BIGSBY (ROUND 12)

The Jaguars reportedly want to lessen Travis Etienne's workload in 2023. Enter Tank Bigsby, a third-round pick with multi-dimensional ability and a clear path to the RB2 job. He will likely see touches in Week 1 and has monster upside if ETN gets hurt. Reports from camp indicate Bigsby could be the short-yardage back right away.

Archetype: RB2 with potential standalone role and contingent upside

KENNETH GAINWELL (ROUND 13)

The addition of D'Andre Swift jeopardizes his role as the primary pass-catching back, but it's at least worth remembering that the Eagles used Gainwell in both high-leverage spots (receiving and goal line) and high-leverage games (playoffs) in 2022. He's a solid option as the cheapest piece in a highly lucrative backfield.

Archetype: Backup RB with a path to high-value touches in an elite offense

RAHEEM MOSTERT (ROUND 13)

Mike McDaniel has immense trust in Mostert from their time together in San Francisco, and the 31-year-old should have Week 1 relevance splitting carries with Jeff Wilson. If something happens to Wilson, Mostert has legitimate upside in one of the most explosive offenses in the NFL, especially if Devon Achane fails to catch on as anything more than a dynamic passing-game weapon.

Archetype: Early-down and short-yardage option in ambiguous backfield

Thanks for reading!

We hope you enjoyed this free guide covering ten of our favorite late-round RB targets. The full article is available as part of our **2023 Draft Kit Pro** subscription.

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