

Keeping Score

Fantasy Football '05: Busts and Bargains

In fantasy football, team owners draft all-star rosters and compete based on their players' individual performances. Just as in real football, fantasy owners can't afford to squander their few high-round picks each year on players that don't produce. And late-round picks that bring unexpected value turn out to be real bargains. We singled out a "bargain" player and a "bust" player at the most important positions.

	PLAYER (TEAM)	AVG. ROUND DRAFTED, 2005	POINTS/RANK AT POSITION		RESULT
			2005	2004	
QB	Daunte Culpepper (MIN)*	1	104/T-19	388/1	BUST
	Carson Palmer (CIN)	8	165/1	189/20	BARGAIN
RB	Curtis Martin (NYJ)	2	84/T-20	267/4	BUST
	LaMont Jordan (OAK)	6	142/4	63/43	BARGAIN
WR	Randy Moss (OAK)	2	75/14	151/18	BUST
	Steve Smith (CAR)	6	141/1	6/100	BARGAIN

*Out for the season due to injury

Sources: Stats LLC; SI.com Fantasy Leagues; WSJ Market Data Group