

NFL - 2010 Fantasy Football San Diego Chargers Team Preview

Written by Patrick Mayo

Sunday, 05 September 2010 02:00 - Last Updated Monday, 06 September 2010 12:18

We have many great articles planned leading up to the 2010 Fantasy Football season including sleepers, busts, rookies, strategy, full player rankings and projections all wrapped up into a nifty draft kit to help you win your league next year. Stay tuned for more, but for now, here's a team preview for you.

Ask a question about your fantasy team in our [FORUM](#) . Leave a comment about this article down below.

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OFF-SEASON TRANSACTIONS

KEY ADDS

- Mathews, Ryan
- Crayton, Patrick

KEY SUBTRACTIONS

- Jackson, Vincent (Holdout)
- McNeill, Marcus (Holdout)
- Tomlinson, LaDainian

NOTE: Of all the key hold outs going this preseason, Jackson's the most likely to leak into the season. Without their number one receivers, the Chargers will have to rely on a group of career

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back ups to carry the load... With the departure of LT, rookie Ryan Mathews will step in from day one and man the back field. The Fresno State product certainly has the talent, but be weary relying on rookie to carry your fantasy team... In an underrated trade, Patrick Crayton has been brought in add some more depth to the WR unit. Crayton has the experience and should shuffle his way up the depth chart.

THE BIG QUESTION

With such turnover on offense, is this the year that dam finally breaks?

The only thing that may save them is their division. It's still crap. Whenever a team loses its number one running back, receiver and offensive lineman in the same off-season, I start to worry. Those are tough pieces to replace. The Chargers will likely fold to McNeill's demands before the start of the season, but if that doesn't happen, things start to get dicey. McNeill creates tons of time for Philip Rivers and, without the burly O-lineman to watch his blindside, Rivers may be spending a lot of his time face down on the ground.

ALSO

Antonio Gates is the only proven receiving option in this entire corps and the stats will reflect that. If Gates isn't the number one tight end this season, he'll definitely be close. Even the McNeill holdout benefits Gates. Expect Rivers to check down more often than naught and no one is a better check down option than Gates... Career back ups Malcolm Floyd and Legedu Naanee will have to step their games up in a big way to save this offense. Floyd can stretch the field vertically and his big body makes for an excellent red zone target. He's the likely number one, but don't over extend yourself for his services on draft day -- he has a lot of flame out potential... Naanee is very very quick and the Chargers will try to find a way to get him the ball in a bit of space. Look for a lot of quick hitches, screen passes and reverses in the play book to utilize Naanee's speed. I like him better than Floyd in PPR formats.

FANTASY DEPTH CHART

QB

- Rivers, Philip
- Volek, Billy
- Crompton, Jonathan

RB

- Mathews, Ryan
- Sproles, Darren
- McNeal, Shawnbrey

WR

- Floyd, Malcolm
- Naanee, Legedu
- Crayton, Patrick
- Davis, Buster
- Reed, Josh
- Jackson, Vincent???

TE

- Gates, Antonio
- Wilson, Kris
- McMichael, Randy

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NOTE: Ryan Mathews inherits the starting gig, not Darren Sproles. Sproles will resume his role as third down/receiving back and contribute on special teams. The cost that comes along with drafting Mathews is too high for my liking, but Sproles has become a quite a discount. He's a must own in any PPR format or any league that counts return yards on an individual level. And always, should anything happen to Mathews, Sproles is a top 20 player... Floyd, Naanee and Crayton will all find ways get reps on a regular basis, but all that is contingent on the Jackson holdout. Crayton is going basically undrafted and may actually emerge as the best of the bunch. He can play the slot as well as the outside and holds the experience edge, by a significant margin, over the rest of this group... Fantasy owners should quickly put Nate Kaeding's shoddy playoff performance out of their minds coming into this year's draft. Fact is, Kaeding is a 87.2% career regular season kicker. An NFL best 88.3% over the last three years, including finishing atop the points total twice over that span. He's the safest option to finish near the top of the pack and perfect for any player that doesn't play kicking match ups from week to week. I would never consider drafting a kicker before the last round, but if you do, Kaeding's the man to take. And yes, that's a very liberal use of the word "man"... The Chargers' defense wasn't the greatest last season and losing their primary ball hawk really did them no favors. They'll always retain some value because they get the Raiders, Chiefs and Broncos six times a season, but this is not a top 15 defense. Stay away.

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