

310 WIDE RECEIVERS

Jaalen Strong		Height: 6-2	Weight: 217	College: Arizona State	Draft: 2015/3 (70)	Born: 25-Jan-1994	Age: 23	Risk: Green																
Year	Team	G/GS	Snaps	Rec	Pass	Yds	C%	+/-	Yd/C	TD	Drop	YAC	Rk	YAC+	BTkl	DVOA	Rk	DYAR	Rk	YAR	Short	Mid	Deep	Bomb
2015	HOU	10/1	282	14	24	161	58%	-0.8	11.5	3	1	4.5	--	+0.3	1	7.1%	--	35	--	45	50%	27%	14%	9%
2016	HOU	8/2	300	14	24	131	58%	-2.0	9.4	0	1	2.3	--	-2.5	0	-29.5%	--	-32	--	-44	57%	35%	4%	4%
2017	HOU			14	24	149	58%	--	10.6	0						-16.5%								

A big-bodied possession threat, Strong is rapidly running out of chances to show that he belongs in the NFL. Strong's a non-factor on special teams, and despite the third-round pedigree and a nice Playmaker Score coming out of Arizona State, has thus far been unable to play ahead of Keith Mumphery. With only Braxton Miller clearly in his path to playing time, this is Strong's last real chance.

Ryan Switzer		Height: 5-8	Weight: 181	College: North Carolina	Draft: 2017/4 (133)	Born: 4-Nov-1994	Age: 23	Risk: Red																
Year	Team	G/GS	Snaps	Rec	Pass	Yds	C%	+/-	Yd/C	TD	Drop	YAC	Rk	YAC+	BTkl	DVOA	Rk	DYAR	Rk	YAR	Short	Mid	Deep	Bomb
2017	DAL			15	22	161	68%	--	10.7	1						-0.5%								

The SB Nation Cowboys site "Blogging the Boys" ran a Switzer article in early May with the headline "Why 'Fearless' Ryan Switzer Will Quickly Become a Fan Favorite in Dallas." Hey, we love the SB Nation Network, and we know how important it is to generate clickability in a headline, but ... can we try a tiny bit harder than slapping the "fan favorite" label on, and praising the courage of, the latest little white guy? What is this, Barstool?

Switzer is, in fact, short, muscular, quick and Caucasian, but those are no reasons to get problematic with the dog whistling. Come to think of it, this player comment may be problematic as well, since it reinforces a stereotype while ostensibly trying to combat a stereotype. As long as we don't mention Cole Beasley ... rats, we just did. When did everything become so fraught with semiotic peril? Switzer should replace Lucky Whitehead as the Cowboys' return man and as a package screens-and-reverses player, OK? And you are allowed to like him for any reason you wish. Don't @ us, please.

Golden Tate		Height: 5-10	Weight: 199	College: Notre Dame	Draft: 2010/2 (60)	Born: 2-Aug-1988	Age: 29	Risk: Green																
Year	Team	G/GS	Snaps	Rec	Pass	Yds	C%	+/-	Yd/C	TD	Drop	YAC	Rk	YAC+	BTkl	DVOA	Rk	DYAR	Rk	YAR	Short	Mid	Deep	Bomb
2014	DET	16/16	924	99	144	1331	69%	+4.9	13.4	4	2	7.0	4	+1.5	18	6.7%	31	214	22	244	49%	33%	13%	4%
2015	DET	16/16	926	90	128	813	70%	+1.7	9.0	6	5	5.9	10	+0.1	27	-1.7%	51	113	39	74	58%	32%	7%	3%
2016	DET	16/16	866	91	135	1077	67%	+3.0	11.8	4	9	6.8	3	+0.9	27	-1.8%	54	114	48	111	50%	34%	6%	9%
2017	DET			92	132	1001	70%	--	10.9	5						4.7%								

Tate has had an interesting career. He was a pseudo-No. 1 receiver in Seattle, where he was effective on both deep passes and after the catch. He looked the part of a budding star in 2014 when the Lions needed him to step up while Calvin Johnson was injured. He was relegated to more of a dink-and-dunk approach under Jim Bob Cooter's offense in 2015. Then last year, with Johnson gone entirely, Tate fell somewhere between his first two Detroit seasons, but still logged more than 90 receptions for the third straight year. Still, it's a wonder whether the Lions are utilizing him best by not going to him downfield more. Tate's 29 wide receiver screens led the league. Tate's YAC+ was plus-0.8 in Seattle and is plus-0.9 in Detroit, but his average depth of target has fallen from 11.1 yards in the Emerald City to 7.2 yards in Motown.

Jordan Taylor		Height: 6-5	Weight: 210	College: Rice	Draft: 2015/FA	Born: 18-Feb-1992	Age: 25	Risk: Green																
Year	Team	G/GS	Snaps	Rec	Pass	Yds	C%	+/-	Yd/C	TD	Drop	YAC	Rk	YAC+	BTkl	DVOA	Rk	DYAR	Rk	YAR	Short	Mid	Deep	Bomb
2016	DEN	16/0	277	16	25	209	64%	+1.5	13.1	2	0	5.3	--	+1.5	2	2.7%	--	32	--	29	29%	50%	21%	0%
2017	DEN			19	31	222	61%	--	11.7	1						-6.3%								

Taylor is best known for helping Peyton Manning rehab when he was an undrafted rookie on the practice squad in 2015. He got into the real games last season and caught his first two NFL touchdowns, but the Broncos still seem disinterested in getting a third receiver to step up in this offense. Taylor will have to battle with Cody Latimer, Bennie Fowler, and rookie Carlos Henderson for playing time.

Taywan Taylor		Height: 5-11	Weight: 203	College: Western Kentucky	Draft: 2017/3 (72)	Born: 2-Mar-1995	Age: 22	Risk: Yellow																
Year	Team	G/GS	Snaps	Rec	Pass	Yds	C%	+/-	Yd/C	TD	Drop	YAC	Rk	YAC+	BTKl	DVOA	Rk	DYAR	Rk	YAR	Short	Mid	Deep	Bomb
2017	TEN			17	28	231	61%	--	13.6	1						0.8%								

Taylor was assigned jersey No. 13, and spent a lot of time at minicamp getting compared to the man whose role he inherits, Kendall Wright. Like Wright, he projects at least initially as a slot receiver, with sufficient but not notable size; good run-after-catch ability; maybe not the fastest top gear; and, crucially for the Titans, outstanding collegiate production. Taylor had 1,730 receiving yards to lead S&P+'s No. 4 passing offense. He's unlikely to average 17.7 yards per catch against NFL defenses, and the June arrival of Eric Decker further reduces his already modest volume expectation. But Tennessee needed the dimension Wright brought, and Taylor has shown no sign of bringing the inconsistency-related headaches that made Wright's career so frustrating.

Adam Thielen		Height: 6-2	Weight: 195	College: Minnesota State	Draft: 2013/FA	Born: 22-Aug-1990	Age: 27	Risk: Yellow																
Year	Team	G/GS	Snaps	Rec	Pass	Yds	C%	+/-	Yd/C	TD	Drop	YAC	Rk	YAC+	BTKl	DVOA	Rk	DYAR	Rk	YAR	Short	Mid	Deep	Bomb
2014	MIN	16/2	152	8	13	137	62%	+0.3	17.1	1	0	4.3	--	+0.2	0	31.3%	--	43	--	44	8%	62%	15%	15%
2015	MIN	16/2	218	12	18	144	67%	+1.4	12.0	0	0	3.9	--	+0.0	3	-8.4%	--	6	--	-5	29%	53%	12%	6%
2016	MIN	16/10	786	69	92	967	75%	+12.2	14.0	5	2	4.3	44	-0.3	9	26.2%	6	270	8	299	40%	29%	19%	12%
2017	MIN			69	96	890	72%	--	12.9	5						17.0%								

Adam Thielen was one of the revelations of the 2016 season. Partially because of injury to teammate Stefon Diggs, Thielen was the surprise leading receiver for the Vikings last year. He has secured himself a starting role moving into 2017, and if he replicates his performances from 2016 he will remain in that spot for a long time. Thielen immediately built a rapport with Sam Bradford, whose ability to throw with anticipation highlight's Thielen's athleticism and ability to create space downfield. With Laquon Treadwell remaining an unknown, Thielen, Diggs, Bradford, and Dalvin Cook figure to make up the foundation of the Vikings offense moving forward.

Demaryius Thomas		Height: 6-3	Weight: 224	College: Georgia Tech	Draft: 2010/1 (22)	Born: 25-Dec-1987	Age: 30	Risk: Yellow																
Year	Team	G/GS	Snaps	Rec	Pass	Yds	C%	+/-	Yd/C	TD	Drop	YAC	Rk	YAC+	BTKl	DVOA	Rk	DYAR	Rk	YAR	Short	Mid	Deep	Bomb
2014	DEN	16/16	1021	111	184	1619	60%	-3.8	14.6	11	8	5.8	14	+1.2	7	9.2%	29	317	8	282	43%	32%	19%	6%
2015	DEN	16/16	937	105	177	1304	59%	-3.3	12.4	6	9	4.7	39	+0.0	15	-8.7%	70	56	60	80	38%	38%	16%	9%
2016	DEN	16/16	890	90	144	1083	63%	+1.6	12.0	5	10	3.6	65	-0.6	11	2.1%	48	172	27	149	31%	49%	10%	10%
2017	DEN			96	154	1185	62%	--	12.3	7						-0.5%								

Over the last two seasons, Thomas has played with four different quarterbacks. Here are his receiving plus-minus figures with each passer: Peyton Manning, plus-2.2; Trevor Siemian, plus-1.0; Paxton Lynch, plus-0.5; and Brock Osweiler minus-5.4.

At least Osweiler is long out of the picture, but Thomas had his lowest yardage total in the last five years in 2016. Thomas was one of seven wide receivers to get credit for a Pro Bowl selection in the AFC last year, but he wasn't as effective as the Broncos would like given his big contract. Without stellar quarterback play the last two seasons, Thomas has only caught 11 touchdowns combined after having 11 scores in 2014 alone. It's not just about the quarterbacks: his 55-yard touchdown against the Bengals last season was his only score longer than 11 yards, so he hasn't been turning the short throw into a long gain as well as he used to.

Michael Thomas		Height: 6-3	Weight: 212	College: Ohio State	Draft: 2016/2 (47)	Born: 3-Mar-1994	Age: 23	Risk: Yellow																
Year	Team	G/GS	Snaps	Rec	Pass	Yds	C%	+/-	Yd/C	TD	Drop	YAC	Rk	YAC+	BTKl	DVOA	Rk	DYAR	Rk	YAR	Short	Mid	Deep	Bomb
2016	NO	15/12	865	92	121	1137	76%	+11.4	12.4	9	4	5.1	26	+1.1	17	31.6%	3	431	2	408	48%	36%	13%	3%
2017	NO			95	142	1279	67%	--	13.5	10						15.1%								

Last year, Michael Thomas ascended to become the third member of DYAR's rookie receiver trinity: Thomas, Randy Moss, and Odell Beckham have the three best rookie seasons on record. Thomas was remarkably consistent in his effectiveness. He was the team's most productive receiver whether on first, second, or third down; inside the red zone or out; in his own half of the field or the opponent's. He led the team in DYAR in 11 of 16 games, as well as for the season as a whole. Moss and Beckham