

Keepers Fantasy Football X Super Bowl Week

(1) Rapids Plungers vs. (6) Showboat

The wait is almost over as Super Bowl X is about to get under way. Rapids Plungers comes into this one as the odds on favorite and there is a quiet confidence about this team that you know they are focused on the task at hand and that is one more win. Showboat is riding a major hot streak all the way to the Super Bowl. They already have

one Super Bowl win to their name now they will look to join the elusive club of Two championship rings! I think that is going to be a tough task if History holds true. First let's talk about the 1 vs 6 matchup in the Super Bowl. Surprisingly this has happened three times and every time the #1 seed took care of business to win the championship.

And it gets better for Rapids Plungers because only one time has the #1 seed lost in the Super Bowl compared to 7 wins. So just a note to all of you out there who are wondering what it takes to win the Super Bowl in this league. History tells you to be the #1 seed. Let's see if Rapids Plungers can be the 8th #1 seed to win in the last 10 years!

Rapids Plungers is looking Super!

Rapids Plungers enters their first ever Super Bowl in their now 6th season in the league. Rapids Plungers coached by Tony Devivo has always put together a competitive team and coming into this year they owned the 5th highest winning percentage of all time. Tony was able to make some great moves in the draft room by drafting Josh Gordon in the 7th round as well as finding Zac Stacy sitting on the waiver wire. In 14 team league finding gems like

this certainly go a long way towards winning games! Their top 4 scoring players on the season have been Josh Gordon (276), Matt Forte (245), Cam Newton (238) and Dez Bryant (227). Which since we are talking Dez Bryant I know a big topic of conversation this week will be the fact that Rapids Plungers passed on Calvin Johnson in favor of Dez and what do you know.. they play each other in the Super Bowl. That decision will be magnified this week and

will be interesting to see how it plays out but it is decisions like this that can either win or lose championships. This team and coach have had a great season and even though they were able to get their first playoff win last week I know that they will not be satisfied unless they are able to get their name on that trophy. I look for them to come out strong and play well like they have all season.

Showboat looks for # 2!



Showboat and their team coached by Brian Freese are back! They have been battling hard all season and the last couple of months of the season this team has done nothing but win which knowing the competitive nature of their coach this has to be the best season by far since their championship run. The draft approach of this team was obvious as they picked WR's Calvin Johnson and Brandon Marshall with their first two picks and not to mention

Desean Jackson in the 5th round. The Pick of Kenny Britt in the 7th round certainly didn't work out well but overall they have stuck to the team they drafted and relied on them all season. I have already mentioned their WR's and those three were the top scorers with all of them scoring over 200 points on the season and then the 4th leading scorer was Big Ben who also had a 200 + point season. The RB situation was a struggle all year and there is no way

they would be in the Super Bowl today without the play of DeMarco Murray who has managed to stay healthy all season and you are seeing that he can be a top back when on the field. This is no doubt a tough test but this team has already defeated the #3 and #2 teams in the league to get here so why not the trifecta and take out the top dog!? I know Brian and Showboat would like nothing more!

Exclusive Coach Interviews

Officially the start of the Super Bowl will be Sunday at 12:00PM CST and during media day we were able to catch up with both coaches, Tony Devivo and Brian Freese. Check out the unedited versions of this below:

Exclusive Interview with Rapids Plungers coach Tony Devivo

Reporter: I would like to welcome to the interview room Tony Devivo the coach of Rapids Plungers. Tony has had a long history of success in this league but none better than this year as they have made it to the Super Bowl for the first time. So Tony let's get right to this, how are you feeling about your first Super Bowl appearance and are you at all worried about first time jitters or your players getting side tracked by the bright lights of the Super Bowl?

Tony: Bright lights? My players aren't vampires...why the heck would they be afraid of light? Stupid question...NEXT

Reporter: I know that it was something I am sure you and your team was sick of hearing about was the fact that even though you were always productive in the regular season come playoff time your team couldn't get a win and were 0-4 until this season. Why this year? What do you think the issue was in past seasons?

Tony: I am guessing the other teams scored more points than me...so I think that was the issue...NEXT



Reporter: This year certainly wasn't without adversity as you started out the season with a loss and only scored 79.76pts but after that you went on a run where you lost only twice since. Why the turnaround or what happened in week 1?

Tony: Well I knew going into weeks 1 and 2 without Blackmon and Gordon, but I was OK with that plan if I could be 1-1 after week 2 which I was. I got Josh Gordon back from his vacation or where ever he was and my team hasn't looked back since then. The move I am most proud of was when I grabbed Stacy out of the free agent pool a week before he was announced the starter and he has been a TOP 10 back since that point.

Reporter: I know that you do your homework in the offseason in order to find the areas that you can find those "draft steals". No doubt Josh Gordon who was drafted in the 7th round was one of those guys. What was your take on him prior to the season and did you at all expect him to have the season he is?

Tony: I loved Gordon since he got drafted by the Browns out of Baylor in the supplemental draft two years ago. He basically Andre Johnson back in '03, same height, same weight and even a bit faster. I do not like his QB situation but obviously he overcame that issue. I wouldn't have been surprised if he ended the year as a top 10 WR but those back to back 50 point weeks really put him over the top for sure. I loved what I had going with Blackmon when he came back too but that didn't last too long. I really felt like with those 3 my team really would have been built to win and win by a lot.

Reporter: Sticking with the draft discussion... it was widely debated at the time when you picked Dez Bryant at 10th overall when Calvin Johnson was still there for the taking. Interestingly enough your opponent Showboat has Johnson on his roster. Any second guessing going on about this pick?

Tony: I actually have thought about this since Sunday night when I knew I was playing him...and yes there is some 2nd guessing...but Bryant came to play last week for me with 10 catches though so he is proving his worth in the playoffs so far. I am looking forward to seeing how this week works out...but I remembered last year when Bryant had a huge game in week 16 so that is one of the main reasons I took him in hopes he can do it again this year.

Reporter: Alright let's move to the game. Your opponent Showboat is the #6 seed in the playoffs however they have got hot at the right time as they have now won 7 of their last 8 games including playoffs. Who are a few players on their team that you are most worried about leading up to the Super Bowl?

Tony: Obviously their WRs. Calvin and Marshall, another guy that I have been high on for a couple of years is Murray. When Dallas actually runs the ball he has looked explosive. My only hope is Dallas just decides to pass all day long. I don't know what to think of Djax - dude always puts up big games against me but I am hoping he has one of his down weeks here.

Reporter: Staying on the subject of your opponent and as you are preparing for this matchup what have you seen that you would identify as a weakness for the Showboat squad?

Tony: Cutler...dude is HORRIBLE! Now if he had a real QB like McCown then I would be scared...

Reporter: What would you identify as the key to you and your team winning the championship this week?

Tony: Scoring more points....

Reporter: Lastly, If you could send one message to your opponent what would it be?

Tony: I dare you to start McFadden



"I really felt like with those 3 my team really would have been built to win and win by a lot."

- Tony Devivo

Exclusive Interview with Brian Freese coach of Showboat

Reporter: I would like to welcome to the interview room Brian Freese the coach of Showboat. Welcome back Brian! It has been awhile since you have been in this seat... in fact it has been 6 years! So how does it feel? Bring back good memories of the championship run in 2007?



Brian: Of course it does Ryan but listen, 6 years is too long. I could say that I hope my name gets on the plaque again but "HOPE" is not a strategy. I am going to throw the ball down field with no mercy. By the time this is over my opponent will be begging for a body bag if it means a ride home.

Reporter: After winning the championship in 2007 which was your first season in the league it took you awhile just to get back to the playoffs? Was it the fact that you or your team thought it would always be as easy as it was in your first season or what happened? Let me remind you that you had only 11 wins combined in the next 3 seasons including a winless season in 2009.

Brian: Listen i don't know what to say really, this is the biggest battle of my professional life. You know when you get old in life things get taken from you. That's just part of life but you only learn that when you start losing things. You find out life is this game of inches and so is football. Because in either game the margin for error is so small. I mean a half a second too late you don't catch it, one step too slow you don't quite make it. I mean the inches we need were all around us these few last seasons and we didn't execute. I don't want to say it but the last several seasons have been rebuilding years. We got rid of some "locker room cancer" and now we are more focused than ever.

Reporter: This year started out kind of slow but your team has been on a tear as of late, winning 7 of your last 8 games including playoffs. What has been the major reason for the turnaround?

Brian: PED's and Jay Glazer

Reporter: Alright let's go off topic for a bit as last week two of your Dallas players were crazy good in DeMarco Murray and Dan Bailey but as a Dallas fan I got to know... how do you cope with what happened and continues to happen to your beloved Cowboys each year?

Brian: Listen Ryan, I appreciate you asking these tough questions.... and I am an open book you know that. What I want to say is that I am not a fan of mediocrity. I will need to see some huge coaching changes in the next two years with the cowboys or I will have to consider becoming just an NFL fan. I cannot continue to be a fan of a poorly run franchise that cares more about being relevant that winning. This has not been an easy decision for me to make but I can't continue to support a team that is content with being in the middle of the pack. I am more a Romo fan than I am a cowboys fan at this point.

"I could say that I hope my name gets on the plaque again but "HOPE" is not a strategy."

- Brian Freese

Reporter: Thanks for humoring me... moving on to the game at hand. You are going against the #1 seeded team in the league and a team that typically has been putting up some points. So in looking at the matchups who on your team are you going to be counting on heavily to lead your team to victory this week?

Brian: It just so happens that I am in Las Vegas this week celebrating my return to the super bowl with some of my friends... maybe you know them? Alec Baldwin and James Franco. After our dinner with congressman Paul Ryan regarding issues that cannot be said we discussed my match up and i will refer to the first question, we will be throwing the ball deep and often. You can't cover any of them, the team I am playing is pretty much garbage against the pass so it should not be a problem. But to answer your question everything rides on Tiquan Underwood's performance.

Reporter: Let's look more closely at your opponent. They obviously got some guys that can put up some points but who are a few players on their team that you are most worried about leading up to the Super Bowl?

Brian: Gordon, Forte and Cameron

Reporter: Staying on the subject of your opponent and as you are preparing for this matchup what have you seen that you would identify as a weakness for the Rapids Plungers squad?

Brian: Newton will have one of the worst games in his career and Bryant has been acting like a silly female so count them out for any production.

Reporter: What would you identify as the key to you and your team winning the championship this week?

Brian: My wide outs are ready... my team is pumped.

Reporter: And lastly, if you could send one message to your opponent what would it be?

Brian: We will not be denied



"My wide outs are ready...my team is pumped." "We will not be denied"

- Brian Freese



Who's Going to Win?

It all comes down to this folks! The top two teams battling for the right to get their names etched in history of the Keepers Fantasy Football trophy as well as the bragging rights over the Christmas season! So let's do this...

First let's start with the QB's, Cam Newton has struggled the last few weeks and you would think he is due for a rebound game soon while Roethlisberger is hit and miss. As much as I think Newton will rebound this week however I have a hard time going against Big Ben in the playoffs. I am going to give the slight edge to Roethlisberger and Showboat.

The WR position is interesting and for all the press that Showboat has got throughout the year for their stud WR's Rapids Plungers is not that far behind. However, I think that Johnson has a monster game this week against the G-men and Bryant struggles to repeat his performance from a week ago. I like Showboat +10 in this matchup.

The RB spot has been solid for Rapids Plungers as of late with the emergence of Zac Stacy and Forte is always a fantasy star in PPR leagues. Showboat has to hope that Sproles gets back to his early season ways and can put up solid points but I don't see that happening as Rapids Plungers gets that +10 points back they lost at the WR position.

Now to the TE's, Jordan Cameron looked like a Top 5 TE to start the season then the QB went down and he has been inconsistent the rest of the season but even though Wright had a nice game last week for Showboat I don't see him repeating. Look for Cameron to have a solid game... that is if he plays! If not I still like Quarless this week over Wright but not by much. Advantage Rapids Plungers

The Flex spot of Underwood vs Bernard is not really close. I think Bernard is a star in the making but they need to give him the ball a bit more and that is the one thing holding him back this week. Still I like Bernard to have a solid game against the Vikes. Advantage Rapids Plungers.

Kickers are kickers I know but when you have a guy put up over 20 points you need to discuss it. Bailey is one of the best and I think you have to give him and Showboat the edge here.

The defensive advantage goes to Rapids Plungers. At this point I don't know that there is a better team D out there for fantasy purposes than KC (Maybe Seattle).

Lastly the defensive player, Sherman had a 25 point effort last week and will look to continue that in the Super Bowl. This is such a hard one to pick but because of the performance last week I am leaning towards Sherman and Rapids Plungers.

And there you have it. My pick to win Super Bowl X is Rapids Plungers but don't get me wrong I think this will be a fight to the end but the way I see Showboat winning is a 30+ point game from Calvin Johnson. How ironic would that be?

The Other Two Teams

There are two other teams playing as well this week as (2)pack slayer will be taking on (5)Pack Attack for a battle to see who finishes in 3rd place. I know that this is not the game that either of these two teams wanted to be playing to finish off the season but for both teams it was a good run and to finish off the season on a positive note is at least something to build on for next season!



Check out the official
website!

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