

1/1/2022

Keepers Fantasy Football XVIII

Super Bowl Week

(4) Bossman vs. (6) DaUnderdog

Super Bowl XVIII is almost here as Bossman is set to take on DaUnderdog to see who this years champion will be! There are many storylines to this one but Bossman getting back to the Super Bowl for the third straight season and DaUnderdog getting back to the Super Bowl for the first time since the league's inaugural season of 2004 will be two of the

top ones! Both teams had their share of challenges this season as most teams do but DaUnderdog losing D. Henry one of the top fantasy players if not the top fantasy player in week 8 was one of the biggest challenges they had to overcome. Bossman had to overcome a rough draft meaning they didn't pick very many good players AND yet they are still here in the Super Bowl for the

third year in a row! Yes, I am shaking my head as I am writing this! Bossman made it to Super Bowl XVI and lost to Rapids Plungers which gave them their first ever Super Bowl win. The very next season in Super Bowl XVII Bossman lost this time to U Don't Know which gave them their first ever Super Bowl win! I think you see the trend. Will it continue this time around?

Bossman Looking to Avoid #3!

Bossman is back and they will be looking for their 3rd Super Bowl championship! I changed the title of this section slightly as in the two previous years it read, "Bossman looking for #3!" and "Bossman still looking for #3!" While Bossman is still looking for #3 they will also be looking to avoid their third straight Super Bowl loss! Some may view that as a negative and I may even poke some fun at it but the reality of it is that there are 5 active teams that have only made the playoffs 3 or fewer times so I think just about any team in the league would be just fine with being in

Bossman's shoes win or lose. Now of course I know this is a game that Bossman really wants to win for obvious reasons as who doesn't want to win Championships but a win here and they into a tie for 2nd place for the most Championships won in the league. Bossman moved past Pack Attack and now has the most post season wins of all time, they also own the highest playoff winning % of any active team in the league and have moved into 2nd place for the most playoff appearances in league history. That is just their playoff resume as

their regular season record and stats as you can imagine are quite impressive as well! Overall, I am not sure that you can find a better franchise then this Bossman squad at this time! As impressive as they have been even the best of the best hit some rough patches and I know that Bossman doesn't want to show up to three straight Super Bowls and have nothing to show for it. I expect a locked in team this week and those last two losses are in the rear view mirror as they have their eyes set on another trophy! Will they get it!?

DaUnderdog looking to defy odds!



DaUnderdog has been part of this league from the day it started way back in the year 2004! They started out with back to back playoff seasons but then they struggled for the better part of the next 11 seasons as they only made the playoffs once in that 11 year span. Since then though they have made the playoffs in 3 of the last 5 seasons and here they are battling for their first ever championship!

DaUnderdog has lived up to their name this season as in many cases I would have and did consider them to be "DaUnderdog". As an example, I picked this team to win only two times in the regular season and to lose eleven times! Yes, my picking of winners maybe isn't the best but for them to continually defy the odds and find ways to win each and every week it has been impressive to watch. They are now just one game away from realizing

the ultimate goal of all fantasy managers and that is getting their name on that trophy! It won't be easy this week against a gritty Bossman team but this DaUnderdog team has shown us that they don't back down to anyone and I fully expect them to come out and play well this week! Will it be enough for them to walk away with their first ever championship trophy or will their run end one game short!? I can't wait to see how this one turns out!

Exclusive Coach Interviews

The official start of the Super Bowl will be on Sunday, January 2 at 12:00PM CST and during media day we were able to catch up with both coaches, Steve Boss and Tyler Keepers. Check out the unedited versions of their interviews below:

Interview with Bossman coach Steve Boss

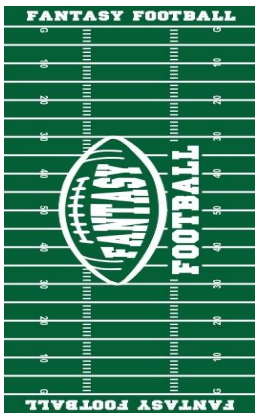
Reporter: I would like to welcome to the interview room Steve Boss the coach of Bossman. Welcome and congratulations Steve on getting back to the Super Bowl for the third year in a row! That is an impressive feat no doubt so let's stop right there. What does it mean to you to be back in this position for the third straight season?

Steve: It means everything! If there's one word that describes team Bossman, it's "consistency". We take pride in that & being at the top of this league year in & year out is proof that we are doing a pretty good job of achieving our goal.

Reporter: I was watching an ESPN Film 30 for 30 which was documenting the Buffalo Bills and their four straight Super Bowl appearances (all losses). Not comparing you to that team just yet but they did say they tried to change things from year to year to try and get a Super Bowl win. Anything you will be doing differently this time around to try and bring home the trophy after the last two years of failing to do so?

Steve: The big difference for us this year is we're not supposed to be here. No one makes it to the championship game with only 2 or 3 guys from their original draft contributing. Our entire WR group & all but 1 RB (dealing with injuries) are mid-season acquisitions. This is unheard of & yet, here we are!

Reporter: This is now your 6th Super Bowl appearance in 16 seasons in the league! That is truly a remarkable feat! A win here and you will have the second most championships of all time with 3 but a loss here and you would continue to sit at that 2 Championships mark. What do you feel that this win would do for you and your legacy as a manager in the league?



Steve: This is the only fantasy league that I play in & I enjoy it for the records, proving the commissioner's predictions wrong & all those little things that make this league so much fun. Of course I want to make my contributions by setting that bar a little higher in the record books for the other teams!

Reporter: I always like to spend a little bit of time talking about the draft as we usually can see a correlation between the guys drafted and why teams make it this far, but this year seems unlike most other years in that it seemed you found a lot of success from other guys (FA's, Waiver wire adds, etc). How were you able to field a Super Bowl team without hitting the so called "homerun" draft picks?

Steve: Man, even I don't know! Last week I won with a lineup of Jefferson, Berrios, Palmer, Uzomah . . . honestly I couldn't even tell you their 1st names or if I'm pronouncing their last names correctly.

Reporter: I just looked it up and you made 67 moves throughout the season which was by far the most in the league and looking back at your last 5 seasons around 35 to 40 would be more average for you. Of those 67, I am sure we had some Kickers and D players, etc but who has been what I will call your "Pickup of the year"?

Steve: I would say the reason for all of those moves is that I've been trying as hard as ever & am even still looking for that pickup of the year! Will it be Ogunbowale? (See my previous comment about 1st names & pronunciation). Maybe one of the Eagles RB's? It's no secret that I would've preferred to go into this game with names like Ridley, Woods & Fournette in the lineup!

Reporter: I know I just mentioned not hitting that "homerun" draft pick but if there was one that stood out it would be Tom Brady. You drafted him in the 5th round which I think was higher than most had him going. Why? Was it situation where you see how Brady seems to win the Super Bowl every year in the "real" football that you thought it would carry over to your fantasy team too?

Steve: I guess I tend to place a higher value on consistency & favor players that don't make as many mistakes.

Reporter: Let's talk a little about the season so far. I recall last year you mentioning it being one of your "most unenjoyable year" due to the constant changes with guys being in and out due to COVID, etc. So how have you felt about this year? COVID still is a thing and yet here you are back in the Super Bowl which I think most fantasy managers would consider fun! You having fun yet?

Steve: Yeah, it feels different this time around. Like everyone else, I would've loved to draft a few studs in the early rounds & find a couple hidden gems in the later rounds. But because I didn't succeed in either, I think COVID may have actually played to my benefit allowing me to find a fill-in (or many) off the waiver wire for a given week.

Reporter: Your season also had some twists and turns as you started out 7-1 but then in very unbossmanlike style you finished the season a less than impressive 1-5 and I for one wasn't expecting your team to be in this position again. What happened those last 6 games and what changed come playoff time?

Steve: This was a strategic move to accept some short term drop in performance to try & improve my long term perspective. I was trying to load up my roster with as many WR's as I could hoping one of them would turn into a consistent player. I still held on to Ridley with some hope, I picked up Julio Jones & held a roster spot for him while injured for awhile, etc. Unfortunately not a single one of those moves worked out for me.

Reporter: You know I am kind of a stat geek when it comes to this stuff but there are two playoff seeds that have won the most championships. The #1 seed is by far the most but the second most is the #4 seeded team which just happens to be what you are this week. Kind of feels like the stars are aligning for you. Would you agree? How confident are you feeling heading into this matchup?

Steve: I think I put up maybe 110 points this week & wouldn't expect that to be enough to get the job done.



"I couldn't even tell you their 1st names or if I'm pronouncing their last names correctly."

- Steve Boss



"I tend to place a higher value on consistency & favor players that don't make as many mistakes."

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"My RBs as rejected misfits need to outperform the more respected RBs on team Underdog."

- Steve Boss

Reporter: I have to ask about Joe Burrow. You dropped him on 11/24 and he was added on waivers by your opponent DaUnderdog. Burrow has been a key piece to DaUnderdog getting this far specifically last week when he had a 55 point outburst! I know it probably felt like the right move at the time but any regrets in the decision to dropping him?

Steve: No regrets, I desperately needed & still need a WR. A backup QB doesn't help me at all. I tried to play the volume game giving more opportunities for just 1 of those gambles at WR to pay off.

Reporter: Alright let's talk a bit more about the upcoming game. In big games like this you need a player or players to step up and lead their team to victory. Who are you counting on most to have a big game for you this week?

Steve: I need a solid performance out of my RB's to make up for my other team deficiencies. The decision of whether I can trust Swift coming back from injury will be my most significant coaching decision of the year & I'm still not sure which way I'm going to go!

Reporter: Let's take a bit closer look at your opponent. DaUnderdog has taken a bit of a page out of your book in that they have just week in and week out plugged guys in and they have performed. Is there a guy or guys on their team that you are most worried about having big games going into this Super Bowl Matchup?

Steve: I think their Cincinnati players will put up big numbers in a shootout against KC.

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 DaUnderdog squad?

Steve: As we were both fighting each other on waivers this week (I wish I had gotten McKenzie), I particularly noticed that they picked up the Eagles Defense & I picked up Chicago against the Giants. Both of us appeared to have got who we wanted, but I think he may have spotted me a few points with that mistake!

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

Steve: My RBs as rejected misfits need to outperform the more respected RBs on team Underdog.

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

Steve: So glad that you beat Bigboy! & made it to the championship. I relate to Ryan always seeming to pick against you & you proving him wrong. And as the only other one that regularly comments on Ryan's Facebook posts, this has built up to a fun rivalry this year!

Reporter: Thanks Steve for your time and good luck in the Super Bowl!

Interview with DaUnderdog coach Tyler Keepers!

Reporter: I would like to welcome to the interview room Tyler Keepers the coach of DaUnderdog. Welcome and Congratulations Tyler on a great season! It has been a long time, but you made it back! How does it feel to be back in the Super Bowl, your first since the 2004 (Inaugural) season?

Tyler: Feels great! I got the butterfly feeling! You prepare all off season for this game. It's very rewarding being in this position

Reporter: Before we dive into some Super Bowl questions let's talk a little about last week because I used the word WOW to describe your performance and I am not sure that is saying enough. To come out and dominate the #1 overall seed in BIGBOY! the way you did and in doing so punching your ticket to the Super Bowl. What was going through your mind as your guys kept putting up points and points and more points?

Tyler: I definitely had a little more hop in my step that day... It's always fun to see your team, especially your QB, have a game like that. Every time I would check the scoreboard Joe had thrown another TD pass.

Reporter: Was there any extra meaning to this win given it was BIGBOY! and they were the team everyone had been talking about all season as the clear-cut favorites to win the Super Bowl?

Tyler: Anytime you come out and dominate a 1# seed like we did feels amazing! Earlier this year we lost to BIGBOY. We felt we should have won that game, and were hoping for a rematch. Last week we got our opportunity and were excited to show the league who has the better roster!

Reporter: Over the years you have had what I would call consistent / mediocre type teams. Not bad, not good. Might make the playoffs, might not. This year felt like another one of those years but here you are one win away from your first ever championship. What was different this year than in years past?

Tyler: Nothing changed much, as to our draft philosophy, as other years. We continued with our beliefs in looking for players who are consistent at there position(s) a year ago, in hopes that same consistency continues this year.

Reporter: Winning Championships is a big deal in this league and still currently 7 of the 14 active teams have yet to win a championship, yourself included. Given that you never really know when we will be back in this position again how important is it for you to get this first championship and get your name on that trophy?

Tyler: Everyone knows how difficult it is getting here! The work you do in the offseason, preparing for this game. Now being one of the two teams playing for a championship is pretty rewarding. So I'd say its a huge moment for us! We have to capitalize on this opportunity!

Reporter: One of the things I always like to do is look at the draft to see "why" a team may be in this position. Before I get into that further there is one thing that stands out and that is your #1 overall pick D. Henry who was lost due to injury after just 8 games. Of those 8 games that Henry played he had 29 or more points in 4 of them! He was seemingly going to single handedly get you to the playoffs. Losing him for the season was a major blow which you clearly overcame. I want to know how because you don't just find a guy like that in the waiver wire.

Tyler: Anytime you lose a playmaker like Henry is a huge loss. To replace someone like that is near impossible. However, Joe Burrow came aboard late in the season along with Amon-Ra St. Brown that have been solid additions to the team



"Every time I would check the scoreboard Joe had thrown another TD pass."

- Tyler Keepers



"It's a huge moment for us! We have to capitalize on this opportunity!"

- Tyler Keepers

Reporter: Your draft strategy seemed to be get RB's early as you drafted a RB with your first three picks (D. Henry, J. Mixon and D. Montgomery). Was this the plan all along or was it more of just drafting what you thought was the best player available at the time?

Tyler: A little bit of both! I like the consistency you get at the RB position. A lot of the teams in the NFL have a dual back. So when you have a chance at a true 1# RB you have to draft him.

Reporter: You also did a nice job of picking up players throughout the season but who currently on your roster would you say has been the key to you making it to now one win away from a championship?

Tyler: Joe Mixon

Reporter: You are coming into this one as the #6 seed. Only one time has a #6 seed won the Super Bowl. You are playing a team in Bossman that is now in their third straight Super Bowl and has two championships under their belt. Who has more pressure? You as a team that wants to get that first win or Bossman who is trying to avoid losing the Super Bowl three years in a Row?

Tyler: With all his experience, its for sure Bossman. He has no excuses. Technically, for us, we're the 6th seed and shouldn't have made it this far. The game analyst probably won't be picking us to win either. It should be a fun championship!

Reporter: Alright this doesn't have anything to do with the Super Bowl but I have to ask. What's up with the team name? I have joked in the past that, and I think it has been true yet again this year that your team is living up to its name "DaUnderdog". Why that name? Where did it come from?

Tyler: It's the 'analogue' behind a true underdog where the name came from. A underdog never gives up and will fight till the end. The outcome of the games usually surprises everyone!

Reporter: Alright back to the game, it seems each week in these playoffs there has been someone who has stepped up to lead your team to victory. Who will you be counting on to have a big game for you this week in the Super Bowl?

Tyler: Right now Joe Burrow has the hot hand. I plan on riding that momentum all the way to the trophy room! Brandon Cooks is another one that comes to mind. Everytime he hears "Lets Go Brandon" it motivates him!

Reporter: Let's look more closely at your opponent. Bossman is known for doing all the little things right and finding ways to win! However, you can't win without having some playmakers so who is a player or players on their team that you are most worried about leading up to the Super Bowl?

Tyler: I'd say Brady and Kelce. Those two, at any point, can take over a game.

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 Bossman squad?

Tyler: Outside of, who I just mentioned, Brady and Kelce Bossman doesn't have much firepower.

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

Tyler: Stay off the COVID list. If we continue to play as a team we have a good chance of taking home our first trophy!

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

Tyler: We're nobody's UnderDog

Reporter: Thanks for your time Tyler and best of luck this week!



"Brandin Cooks is another one that comes to mind. Everytime he hears "Lets Go Brandon" it motivates him!"

- Tyler Keepers



"If we continue to play as a team we have a good chance of taking home our first trophy!"

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Check out the official website!

www.KeepersFantasyFootball.com

Who's Going to Win?

So now what you have all been waiting for, who wins Super Bowl XVIII? Let's break down the positions:

Quarterback: *Tom Brady vs Joe Burrow*

Joe Burrow was the headliner last week as he had one of the best fantasy performances of any player this season. T. Brady has had a great season for Bossman and has a tasty matchup against the NYJ this week. I expect this one to be close but I have to give the edge to Brady and **Bossman** simply because of the matchup.

Wide Receivers: *V. Jefferson, B. Berrios, K. Golladay vs A. St. Brown, B. Cooks, B. Aiyuk*

Talk about your ultimate waiver wire / free agent lineup of WR's here it is. I am not sure that I have ever seen two Super Bowl teams with this little name notoriety as I do here with these 6 WR's. Now that doesn't mean these guys can't play but they are not the T. Hill or D. Adams types I am used to seeing in this spot. I like how DaUnderdog and his WR's have been playing though and I think they continue that this week. The edge goes to **DaUnderdog** here!

Running Backs: *R. Jones & D. Swift vs J. Mixon & D. Montgomery*

This is an interesting matchup that very well may determine who wins the Super Bowl. I like all 4 of these RB's this week but the risky plays are R. Jones and D. Swift. Also, if R. Jones has a huge day does that mean Brady doesn't? I like Mixon and Montgomery for **DaUnderdog** in this one.

Tight Ends: *T. Kelce vs R. Gronkowski*

If you have Travis Kelce on your team you are going to win this position. However, the good news for DaUnderdog is that if Brady has a big game there is a good shot that Gronkowski gets some of that scoring and if Kelce has a big game then there is a good chance of a shootout which means Burrow is having a good day. The edge here goes to **Bossman** but the correlation of points goes in DaUnderdog's favor.

FLEX: *D. Ogunbowale vs D. Singletary*

We have a RB who I can't pronounce their last name going against the NE D or D. Singletary. I like **DaUnderdog** and Devin Singletary in this one quite easily!

Kicker: *G. Zuerlein vs G. Joseph*

I don't look at the K position much throughout the year but I like Dallas offense over MN so I am going with Zuerlein and **Bossman** with the edge.

Team Defense: *Chicago vs Philadelphia*

Both of these Defenses were waiver wire adds which means both of these teams like the D they got. This is a toss-up but I am going to go with the team that has something to play for and give the edge to Philadelphia and **DaUnderdog**.

Defensive Player: *J. Poyer vs T. Diggs*

T. Diggs has been ridiculous this season and for fantasy purposes has been solid scoring 12 or more points the last 4 games. Poyer is yet another waiver wire pickup for Bossman. I like Diggs and **DaUnderdog** to win this position.

The Verdict:

I think this is going to be a great game between two teams that are very evenly matched. In looking at the individual matchups there isn't one position that really stands out as a huge advantage for either team and I don't see this being a very high scoring game which means that one player having a 30+ point game could be all that is needed to seal the victory. I haven't picked them much this season, but I really like their roster this week. I am going with **DaUnderdog** to get the win and their first ever Championship trophy!