

12/29/2022

Keepers Fantasy Football XIX

Super Bowl Week

(3) teamAlaska vs. (4) Big Papa

Super Bowl XIX is finally here and it's gameday! It's been a while since we have had a matchup like this where I would call both of these teams getting to a Super Bowl rather rare. Both teams are coming into their 2nd Super Bowl and Big Papa will be looking for their first ever championship! This is the first Super Bowl in the last 8 seasons that did not include BIGBOY! Pack Attack or

Bossman! It is nice to see some new teams battling it out on the biggest fantasy football stage! teamAlaska has had a tremendous season! They started out strong at 5-0 but then went through a bit of a rough patch before finishing the season strong with a 9-5 record. Big Papa also finished with the same 9-5 record and won 5 of their last 6 regular season games and have stayed hot the

past two weeks in the playoffs! There is not a lot of Super Bowl experience but both of these teams have been in the big game and have won two playoff games to get to this point, so I don't expect nerves to be a factor! Will teamAlaska add their name to the small list of teams with 2 Super Bowl wins? Or will Big Papa get that monkey off their back and get their first championship!?

teamAlaska wanting #2!

teamAlaska has been in this league since it started back in 2004! They have one championship title but overall have primarily struggled to not only win championships but also just getting to the playoffs. This now only their 4th playoff berth in 18 seasons played however none of that really matters as it is all about what you do when you get into the playoffs and do you capitalize on that! For example, there has been a lot said about a Bossman team that has been so successful each and every season including three straight trips to the Super Bowl. However, with a win

here teamAlaska will tie Bossman with 2 Super Bowl titles! They drafted well and have stuck with their team throughout the season and now they are one win away from a championship! They come into this one playing some of their best football of the season. They have now won three straight (including playoffs). In those three games they have averaged an impressive 154 PPG. They have been led by their star WR in Justin Jefferson but they have also had role players stepping up big time for them. DeVonta

Smith has been outstanding. He finished the regular season as the 10th best WR. In the playoffs he continued to produce with 16 and 20 points in the playoff games. They are going to need that strong play yet again this week. The gameplan is set, the team is ready and when I talked with their coach earlier this week during the Super Bowl press conference he seemed poised and confident that they were going to play a good game! Will that lead to their second championship? They sure seem to be in a good spot

Big Papa looking for #1!



Big Papa is back in the Super Bowl for the second time. It was 6 years ago that they made their first ever Super Bowl only to lose to Pack Attack by 60. I think that they learned a lot from that game and I expect a much better outcome this time around. They have a team that has been playing with a lot of confidence over the past 2 months and they have rode that confidence all the way to the Super

Bowl! They were led this season by their signal caller in Patrick Mahomes who ended up as the #1 overall QB and scorer in the league! Not bad for a guy drafted in the 5th round! James Conner and Rhamondre Stevenson have also been carrying the load for this team and they will be looking to do the same this week!

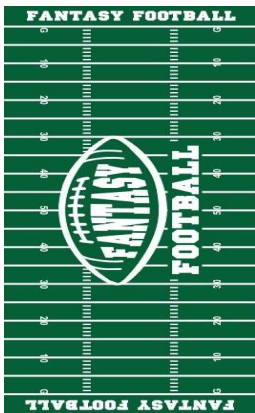
Big Papa, like teamAlaska has been in the league since it started back in

2004. They have made the playoffs in 8 of their 18 seasons and the only thing left to cross of their list is that elusive Super Bowl win! The stage is set for them to do so and even though I would consider them a bit of an underdog in this one, I think that is right where they like to be! No one took this team very seriously and now look.. they are one win away from doing something their beloved MN Vikings may never do, win a Super Bowl! Can they do it? I can't wait to find out!

Exclusive Coach Interviews

The official start of the Super Bowl will be on Thursday, December 28 at 7:15PM CST and during media day we were able to catch up with both coaches, Jeff Keepers and Craig Lindgren Sr. Check out the unedited versions of their interviews below:

Interview with teamAlaska coach Jeff Keepers



Reporter: I would like to welcome to the interview room Jeff Keepers the coach of teamAlaska. Welcome and Congratulations Jeff on a great season! You are back! It has been a long 11 years but you have finally made it back.. let's not beat around the bush and let's get right to it... what took so long to get back here?

Jeff: I wish I knew!! The last time I won the Super Bowl was with Rodgers/ Jordy Nelson combination and that really worked well that year.

Reporter: You are coming off a big win against a team in Starrfavrerodg that had all the momentum in the world. They were riding a 8 game winning streak and seemed like they had a team that could go all the way. I know you know the coach of that team really well, any extra satisfaction in beating Starrfavrerodg to go to the Super Bowl?

Jeff: Ha, a win is a win and honestly, I'm just happy to be competing in the Super Bowl.

Reporter: Let's talk briefly about facts and the facts tell us that your team hasn't been very good, really ever since that championship from 2011. However, the last 3 seasons (including this one) you have been over .500 and now here you are battling for a championship. Anything you did different this year or really these past three years that could point to as the reason for your success?

Jeff: Not really, I have been fortunate to have a very healthy team.

Reporter: You have your name on that trophy one time which already sets you apart from the majority of teams in the league, however a win here to get to two championships would make you only the 5th active team in league history with multiple championships! Does that mean anything to you or are you too focused on the task at hand to worry about the historical context?

Jeff: Absolutely, I would love to have the trophy hanging on my wall this year!!

Reporter: The draft is always such an important part of the league, and it is always intriguing to me to look at how the Super Bowl teams drafted and where their success came from. You hit a home run with your #5 pick in J. Jefferson. He has been outstanding. Your pick of D. Smith in the 7th round looks like a steal. How do you approach the draft? Do you do a lot of research weeks in advance or have a cram session 1 hour before and hope things pan out?

Jeff: Oh boy, honestly I don't do much researching ahead of time. I tend to draft players I know and stay away from the rookie players in early draft rounds.

Reporter: For a Super Bowl team you have an extremely low amount of "moves" on the season with only 11. That is the third lowest in the league with the highest being 55. That tells me that you have had a relatively healthy team and that you have liked your team from day one (even your DEF). That true? Anything in particular that you like about this roster?

Jeff: Funny you should ask about my Dallas defense, seems like they have been on my team the last few years. The roster definitely can be explosive at times and likely the most consistent team I've had in many years.

Reporter: You started off the season on fire winning 5 straight and consistently scoring 140. Then things started to unravel a bit as you lost 4 of 5 games from weeks 9 – 13 but finished with a big win against Bossman. Can you put your finger on what changed from the time you were 5-0 to the time you were losing 4 of 5? Anything you did different to correct things starting in Week 14 when you dominated Bossman?

Jeff: Yes, I started Trevor Lawrence in place of the injured Lamar Jackson and had very consistent play among most of my players.

Reporter: Looking ahead to this week's game, there is no doubt you will need guys to step up and outperform projections. Who will you be counting on to have a big game for you this week in the Super Bowl?

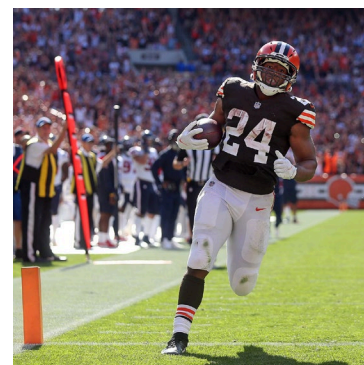
Jeff: I would be happy if Trevor Lawrence and Nick Chubb would outperform their projected point totals!!

Reporter: Let's look more closely at your opponent. Big Papa has been doing all of the little things right lately and finished out the regular season winning 5 of 6 games to put themselves into the playoffs. They are coming off a big win against Bossman and seem to be on a roll. Who is a player or players on their team that you are most worried about leading up to the Super Bowl?

Jeff: Patrick Mahomes!!! The other person that I will be watching is Zay Jones.

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 Big Papa squad?

Jeff: Solid team and not much for weaknesses!!



"This roster definitely can be explosive at times"

- Jeff Keepers



"I really need consistent points from all my players and for my back-up quarterback to have a big game!!"

- Jeff Keepers



"I made several roster changes through the season to fill in weaknesses and injuries."

- Craig Lindgren Sr

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

Jeff: I really need consistent points from all my players and for my back-up quarterback to have a big game!!

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

Jeff: Good luck Craig!!!

Reporter: Thanks Jeff and good luck in the Super Bowl!

Interview with Big Papa coach Craig Lindgren Sr!

Reporter: I would like to welcome to the interview room Craig Lindgren Sr the coach of Big Papa. Welcome and Congratulations Craig on a great season! Five years ago you made a Super Bowl run but fell a bit short! How does it feel to be back in the Super Bowl?

Craig: It feels wonderful! We've had a lot of doubters about our team this season, so it's good to see them to continue moving forward quieting the critics.

Reporter: Before we dive into some Super Bowl questions let's talk a little about last week because you were going into that matchup as a big underdog against a Bossman team that seemed prime to get to their 4th Super Bowl in a row, finished as the #1 seed and from top to bottom seemed like the team to beat. However, not only did you beat them to go to the Super Bowl, but you were also only 1 of 4 teams to beat them in the regular season. What gave you the confidence you needed to pull off the upset?

Craig: As a coach, I just continued to evaluate my players. I made several roster changes through the season to fill in weaknesses and injuries. It does no good to get intimidated by a team, or to feel superior to another team, you just need to put your best players in and ask them to give their best performance that week.

Reporter: Was there any extra feelings of satisfaction given most people had Bossman not only winning but also winning the whole thing?

Craig: It is always a good feeling to come out on top. When you face an excellent opponent like Bossman and win, there is great satisfaction. He has proven himself to be an excellent coach over the last several years. His players just didn't work it out this week. My players didn't play their best, but they never gave up. And for that, I am thankful and proud.

Reporter: You have been what I would call a very consistent team throughout the years. Never too bad but also never really good enough to take it all the way. Here you are one victory away from a team that is “good enough” to take it all the way. What is different this year than in years past?

Craig: Well, in a year that has had many teams plagued with injuries, Big Papa’s team was no different. We lost a couple players through the season which could have devastated any normal season and team, and so we had to dig deep into the reserves in the waiver wire to fill in those spots. It takes a lot of research and a little luck to choose steady and reliable replacements, but it seemed to work well for us this year.

Reporter: Winning Championships is a big deal in this league and still currently 6 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?

Craig: It’s always important to get to the championship, and even better to win one, as that’s what we all play for each and every year. I believe through the years staying consistent has been a good strategy, this year as we evaluated our injuries and consistency of our players, we just took a few more risks and it has seemed to pay off.

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. I know you pride yourself on having a top draft (per the Yahoo report card), but this year you took C. Kupp at #1 who has since been lost for the season. How have you been able to overcome losing a guy like that and still able to make it to the Super Bowl?

Craig: Losing Kupp would have broken most teams, and I would be talking foolish to say it was not a huge blow to our team. I personally believe losing him, cost us at least one maybe two positions in the standings. So what do we do? We knew that we had a large hole to fill, and we got busy in research. We were able to pick up some other good receivers that have proven worthy producing additions. Several have carried their weight when needed, and we couldn’t have asked for more. But they’re not done. We got one more big game to go!

Reporter: Your draft strategy was solid but in looking at things getting Mahomes in the 5th round seems like one of the better steals of the draft. Did you have your eyes set on him going into draft night?

Craig: Kupp was an obvious choice, and yes, Mahomes was a high choice I had my eye on. There are several very good quarterbacks out there, but only a few elite ones. I wanted an elite quarterback, even if it cost me an earlier pick. Mahomes was proven among the elite choices, and I wanted him.

Reporter: Another one of your better picks was Rhamondre Stevenson in round 6, was he also a guy you had targeted or just someone that fell and it seemed worth taking a chance?

Craig: Except for an elite few, I believe running backs can be quite a challenge. Stevenson seemed to have the potential as well as the ability to be consistent week in and week out RB barring any injuries. He has proven that to be true. He started out slow and then did very good. Two of his last three weeks have been subpar, so we are expecting that he gets firing on all cylinders for the next game.



“Mahomes was proven among the elite choices, and I wanted him..”

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Reporter: You definitely got a lot right on draft night so kudos to you! One last question about the draft and then we will move on but tell me a little about your draft strategy. Any specific strategy or strategies that you find seem to work for you or is it different each season?

Craig: It really depends on your draft position. Generally, if you are in the first half of the draft, your choices are fairly small as you're seeking one of the few elite players. Once I get past that, I am really looking for the consistent players that have both history and ability. QB and TE are usually higher on my priorities. RB are also important. In such a pass heavy league, once you clear out the elite wide receivers, it really becomes a challenge. Research and a bit of luck always help in that area. And that's where we did well, especially after our injuries.

Reporter: Alright back to the game, come playoff time you need guys to step up and outperform projections. Who will you be counting on to have a big game for you this week in the Super Bowl?

Craig: Mahomes and Z. Jones need to have big games. I'm also expecting Conner to do well. But it's a team effort. Everyone needs to step up. Stevenson needs to bounce out of his slump. We have a few strategies we are looking at as well as some possible game time decisions.

Reporter: Let's look more closely at your opponent. teamAlaska seems to be on a similar roll that they were when they started the season out at 5-0! They are consistently putting up 140 points which obviously is a concern for any team that has to face them but who is a player or players on their team that you are most worried about leading up to the Super Bowl?

Craig: I think Jefferson may do well as they may be facing a shootout with GB. Jeudy also may have a good game as they should be playing catch up. Team Alaska has a good team, but a few players also have tough matchups.

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 teamAlaska squad?

Craig: As I stated, Team Alaska has a few players that have some tough matchups this week. Some inconsistencies, some inexperience. I believe a few may get exploited and under perform this week. But Team Alaska is a good coach, and I am sure he is addressing these issues with his team.

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

Craig: I believe if every player performs to their expectation, and doesn't bomb in the points we have a shot. We are use to being and predicted as the underdog And if we can get a few players to exceed expectations, which I am expecting, I believe we have a shot. All I ask, is that my team give the best that they can, and that I give them the opportunity to win.

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

Craig: Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Respect your elders and let "old" Big Papa get his first championship win! 🙌 Oh, and yes, good luck!

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



"I'm also expecting Conner to do well. But it's a team effort. Everyone needs to step up."

- Craig Lindgren Sr

Who's Going to Win?

Keepers Fantasy Football XIX



Check out the official website!

www.KeepersFantasyFootball.com

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

Quarterback: *Patrick Mahomes vs Trevor Lawrence*

While you might expect to see a Mahomes led team in the Super Bowl it is not quite the same expectations for Lawrence. However, over the past three weeks Mahomes has 80.77 points and Lawrence has 82.17. Lawrence can play but for the sake of picking an advantage I can't go against Mahomes. **Big Papa** with the edge at QB.

Wide Receivers: *D. Peoples-Jones, Z. Jones, B. Cooks vs D. Smith, J. Jefferson, J. Jeudy*

The WR room has been a talking point all playoffs for Big Papa as their lack of a star and the fact they are here is rather impressive. Z. Jones has been outstanding at times but then he has games like last week (1.5 points). teamAlaska has the best WR weapon in J. Jefferson a top 10 WR in D. Smith and J. Jeudy has been playing well as of late. This edge here goes to **teamAlaska**.

Running Backs: *J. Conner, R. Stevenson vs N. Chubb, E. Elliott*

The RB's of Conner and Stevenson have been a strength for Big Papa all season. They both likely finish in the top 10 at the RB position if not for injuries. Chubb and Elliott could match them especially since Pollard has now been ruled out for the Thursday night game. I expect this one to be close but I am going with **Big Papa** to have the slight edge.

Tight Ends: *T. Hockenson vs H. Hurst*

Hockenson has been solid all season for Big Papa but last week he had that monster type of game that you are looking for in the playoffs as he had 16 targets and put up 35 points. Hurst is nowhere near the talent of Hockenson and teamAlaska is just hoping they don't lose this position by too much. **Big Papa** with the edge here.

FLEX: *D. Montgomery vs J. Meyers*

D. Montgomery has been solid for Big Papa and if there is one guy they need to step up it may be a guy like Montgomery. teamAlaska is rolling with J. Meyers who has been solid when healthy. This is a close one, I am going to give the slight edge to Meyers in a game you would expect NE to be passing a bit more than usual. Edge goes to **teamAlaska**.

Kicker: *B. Maher vs C. Santos*

I don't pay too close attention to the kickers in my weekly regular season previews as they are always very hard to predict. I am going with Maher and **Big Papa** with the edge here!

Team Defense: *Philadelphia vs Dallas*

Something you rarely ever see. teamAlaska drafted the Dal D in the 16th round and they rolled with them ever since and here in the championship they are the top projected Def for the week! Impressive! Edge goes to Dallas and **teamAlaska**.

Defensive Player: *D. White vs L. Sneed*

Want to win a Super Bowl? Find the D player that is going to score 20+ points this week. I don't have a strong take here but Sneed against a terrible R. Wilson. I will give him the edge and **teamAlaska**.

The Verdict:

I am expecting this to be a good game with two teams that have proven they can put up some points. In big games you want big time players. Big Papa has Mahomes, teamAlaska has Jefferson. Check for both teams. The role players are there for both teams but two things set this one apart. The WR position. Big Papa would need another 30 point game from Z. Jones however that would mean that Lawrence was having a solid day. The other thing is Zeke going against the Titans backups tonight without Pollard playing and on top of that teamAlaska has the Dallas D! I like teamAlaska to come away with their 2nd championship when this one is over!