

12/25/2024

# Keepers Fantasy Football XXI

## Super Bowl Week

### (3) Sportsfreak vs. (5) BIGBOY

Super Bowl XXI is here and what a matchup we have. It is not only a rematch of Super Bowl XIV but also is a matchup of brothers going after a very important championship. Sportsfreak is one of those household names in the league. They joined the league from day 1 and have had a lot of success but they have never been able to figure out how to get that championship! A

win here and the previous 6 losing seasons are forgotten! BIGBOY! has been there done that when it comes to the playoffs and championships but right now for them it is all about adding to their legacy and making sure that when people look back on this league years from now their team and name will be the one they will look at as being the best of the best. Getting to

championship #3 would go a long ways towards cementing that legacy! A loss here and Sportsfreak suddenly is just one Super Bowl behind them and that legacy thing I was just talking about takes a bit of a hit! The stakes are high for both teams and we have the brother battle on top of it! What could be better! I don't know about you but I can't wait to see how this one turns out!

### Sportsfreak Looking for #1

Sportsfreak comes into this Super Bowl searching and hoping to get that first title! They have had some chances as this will be their third Super Bowl appearance but the problem is that in the last two they only scored 93 points each time! That unfortunately is what you would call a team that is not handling the pressure very well. They will be hoping for a different outcome this time around as they have a team that has put up over 100 points in all but two weeks all season. In addition to that they are really on a roll. They have won 5 straight

games if you include the playoffs. They also dominated their Super Bowl opponent BIGBOY! by scoring 171 points in their only meeting during the regular season. There team has just seemed to get better and better with each week and they now have just one more game remaining to break through and get that first title. There team has been relatively healthy all year but they will likely need to win another game without their star RB in A. Kamara (although not for sure yet). Injuries are never any fun, but they are always the worst to have

to deal with them when you are trying to win a Super Bowl. I am also a little concerned about C. Lamb as the Cowboys are out of the playoffs so shutting him down for the final two games wouldn't necessarily surprise me. Either way, this is a deep team and I expect they will show up this week and this Super Bowl different then their previous two! They know there is no guarantee of getting back to this spot anytime soon and I expect a solid outing this week! Will it be enough to hoist that trophy? Check out the prediction section to see what I think!

## BIGBOY! Looking to cement their Legacy!



BIGBOY! is back in the Super Bowl for the 4<sup>th</sup> time and they have 2 Super Bowl Championships to their name. At this point for BIGBOY! they want to be known as one of the best of the best teams in the history of the league and a win here would go a long ways toward doing that. Two Super Bowls are nice and that is two more then a good # of people in the league have but if they can win this

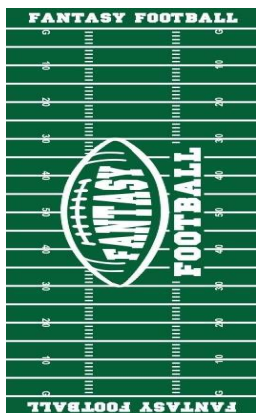
week and get to #3 that would put them into an exclusive club that currently only three other teams are in! It would also mark the second time in 6 years that they have beaten their older brother for a championship! I am sure that BIGBOY! coach would prefer to be beating someone else this season and have Sportsfreak win a championship a year when they aren't but as the younger brother there is still something satisfying

about beating your big brother no matter what the game is and to be able to do it to win the fantasy football championship for the second time would be a nice talking piece for years to come. This is no doubt a good coach and a good team that has put together a roster that can once again win it all! I am excited to see how they come out and play this week. Will they be over confident and come out flat or will they come out and dominate like they have for the better part of the last two months

## Exclusive Coach Interviews

The official start of the Super Bowl will be on Wednesday, December 25 at 12:00PM CST and during media day we were able to catch up with both coaches, Kyle Lindgren and Craig Lindgren Jr. Check out the unedited versions of their interviews below:

### Interview with Sportsfreak coach Craig Lindgren Jr



**Reporter:** I would like to welcome to the interview room Craig Lindgren Jr the coach of Sportsfreak. Welcome and Congratulations Craig on a great season! It's been a while! In fact, six seasons since your last post season and last Super Bowl appearance. How does it feel to be back in the Super Bowl?

**Craig:** It feels pretty incredible. Had a few bad breaks over the years, but I never questioned my coaching and knew eventually, I would make it back to this spot.

**Reporter:** Before we dive into some Super Bowl questions let's talk briefly about this season and your playoff run to get here. You have been on a tear as of late, finishing out the regular season winning 5 of your last 6 games and now dominating here in the playoffs. Prior to that you were 4-4 and seemingly trying to figure things out. What changed midway through the season or how have you been able to have this success as of late?

**Craig:** This league is no joke. You play a lot of tough teams. You try to find your strategies as you go. so many of these games come down to coaching decisions so once I seen the potential in my team, we buckled down and started playing ball and you could really see how that played out at the end of the season going 5-1.

**Reporter:** I mentioned it has been 6 seasons since your last post season berth which was the longest of your career. Did you do something different this season that helped you break out of that slump?

**Craig:** One thing that made a big difference was I took off the weekend and focused on how to get the most success from my team and making sure I'm bring in the right people for my bench for injuries and bye weeks. Asked my assistant coaches Jude, Titus and Ari there thoughts or what I might be overlooking and then we executed. And as you can see it worked to perfection.

**Reporter:** The last time you were in the playoffs you made it all the way to the Super Bowl only to lose to BIGBOY! Now you have a chance at revenge. Have you thought about that or is it one of those scenarios where win or lose at least a Lindgren is winning the championship this year?

**Craig:** Well the last time we were here he would get really emotional when he would lose. So for a small chunk of money from his mother and some sympathy from myself being the older brother and wanting to see my little bro get some recognition and a moment to shine I don't think I gave it my all the first time around. Now that we are both older and he has had a decent career I won't make those same mistakes again.

**Reporter:** You have been a part of this league from the very beginning, and you know that winning championships is a big deal. You have yet to get your name on that trophy while both your brother and Father have. How important is it for you to get this first championship and get your name on that trophy?

**Craig:** This has been one of my top focus this year. I have had a lot of good seasons, but this year just feels different. My team is stacked and we are focused and ready to bring home the trophy.

**Reporter:** Let's dive into a few in season things and one of the things that stood out to me is that you had a relatively low amount of "moves" you made throughout the season. Of your 18 moves, only 6 of those were to add offensive players. This tells me that the bulk of your team is guys you drafted. Did the draft work out the way you wanted it and were you happy with your team after the draft?

**Craig:** I will say initially, the draft was not a 100% success I felt. But just like every good coach you build a team with what you have and looking back now I want to trade this team for the world they have played through many hard games came up big when I needed them too And as the season went, we grew closer and closer together. I felt like in the draft my wr were going to be the strength of my team. But my RB's have been the backbone the team. This group of guys have played hard and thats why I know we will win. Can't wait to hold that trophy up high for them.

**Reporter:** The one thing that stands out to me when looking at your draft is your two rookies. Brian Thomas Jr (6th round) and Bucky Irving (11th round). These two players have been a big reason why you have had the success you have the last few weeks. Were these two rookies you had targeted going into the draft?

**Craig:** Thomas I was pretty excited about and he has proven to be a home run in the draft. Irving I knew he had potential and talent but wasn't sure how much of a chance he would get this year. But talk about the type of guy you want going into the playoffs. He has been a stud at the end of the year and plan on one more game of him being a workhorse.

**Reporter:** Another one of your better picks was getting A. Kamara in the 4th round. He finished the season as RB6. You have had Kamara on your team frequently over the years. Is he someone you are always targeting on draft day?

**Craig:** He is a player I really do like. If I am honest he has let me down before but I always like his catching ability. This year I was pretty high on him going into the draft and this time he didn't let me down. I know we are both hoping he can play this week for this big championship game his veteran leadership is needed.



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*"my RB's have been the backbone of my team"*

- Craig Lindgren Jr



*"He is a player I really do like... we are both hoping he can play this week for this big championship game!"*

- Craig Lindgren Jr



*"I let him know mommy couldn't buy him a win this time so get the tissues out and get ready to cry."*

- Craig Lindgren Jr

**Reporter:** Last thing related to draft day is that you have a really well-rounded roster where if one guy is out or bye weeks hit others could step in and fill that void. Did you take that into consideration when drafting or was it more of a pick the best player available approach?

**Craig:** I didn't look at the byes to much I just took the guys on the board that I felt were the best at that time. I will say for me the bye weeks were spread out pretty good for me and didn't feel like I had a week where I had trouble filling the roster and having a good chance to win. Did look at the bye weeks for the qb position but ended up having an injury to tua and I had to switch things up a little. But everyone I placed in that starting roster stepped up when they needed to and that's how we made it on top.

**Reporter:** Ok, let's talk a bit more about this upcoming Super Bowl. In order to win games and especially playoff games 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:** I am predicting my running backs will come up big. But this team is so well balanced and good that I think this will be an overall team victory. Looking to put up another 150 point game. I'm pretty sure that will be 50 points more than I need but I talked to the guys and we plan on not going easy even when we are up big. This is the championship and it's time to play like champions.

**Reporter:** So you obviously know your opponent well, being that he is your brother and all. Any trash talking or texting from him this week?

**Craig:** No I wished him luck. Let him know mommy couldn't buy him a win this time so get the tissues out and get ready to cry.

**Reporter:** I know you are a stand up guy but this is for the championship and if you happen to find his (BIGBOY!) phone lying next to you at Christmas do you A) login and drop his best players B) bench his players and then change his Yahoo password so he can't get in again to fix it or C) Leave it alone and know your guys are good enough to beat him without any help!

**Craig:** I know I am good enough to beat him without any help. Saying that I would also consider option A if it presents itself. 😊

**Reporter:** Ok, let's look more closely at your opponent. BIGBOY! is playing really well and has scored 145 points in back to back weeks. Who is a player or players on their team that you are most worried about leading up to the Super Bowl?

**Craig:** London and Brown will be the 2 I will be keeping an eye on closely. I know these 2 can put up some big games. But I am also confident that there best still won't be good enough against my team.

**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 BIGBOY! squad?

**Craig:** I would say his team is pretty balanced and he has a lot of players that could put up some points. The difference this week is he is going against the best so the whole team looks pretty weak if you put them next to each other.





**Reporter:** On the flip side, you picked some less than impressive RB's in R. White, Z. Moss, E. Elliott and D. Cook. What was your thoughts here? Surely there was better options?

**Kyle:** I don't regret grabbing White or Moss, but hindsight always makes you question. And yeah, the Cowboys running backs? That was just a bad call on my part.

**Reporter:** You also drafted B. Purdy in the 10th round which I know there are certain people that like him as a fantasy QB but here you are and those doubters are not. Why Purdy when there was so many other QB's available? Is he good enough to lead you all the way to a Super Bowl win?

**Kyle:** A lot of people, like Pack Attack, hate on Purdy, but I see his potential. He has plenty to prove, and with big money on the line and one of the best teams around him, he's a no-brainer, especially considering how late I picked him.

**Reporter:** Ok, I need to ask you about your start to the season. You got off to a 0-4 start but finished the season at 8-2 and now here you are one win away from another Championship. What happened in that 0-4 start and how did you break out of it and start this improbable run?

**Kyle:** From starting 0-4 to now being in the Super Bowl, my season is straight out of a Cinderella story. DaUnderdog called me out early, and Pack Slayer told me to give up my stars and tank the season when I was 1-4. I took all that personally and switched gears. I don't think anyone has made a turnaround like this—it's a historical moment for the league.

**Reporter:** You get to go up against Sportsfreak in the Super Bowl who happens to be your big brother. He also has not won a championship. Is there any part of you that would be ok with him winning the Super Bowl this week?

**Kyle:** I have a ton of respect for my brother, and I wouldn't want to face anyone else in the big game. That said, he straight-up disrespected me after my victory against Bossman, and I took that personally too.

**Reporter:** This is a rematch of Super Bowl XIV which saw you come out on top by a mere 0.35 points over Sportsfreak. Do you expect another close game this week?

**Kyle:** I'm not sure if this Super Bowl will be as close as our last one, but I'm expecting a high-scoring week for both of us.

**Reporter:** Alright back to the game, you have been here before so you know it takes someone on your team to step up and help lead your team to a championship. Who will you be counting on to have a big game for you this week in the Super Bowl?

**Kyle:** I like my matchups this week, and besides the obvious picks, I'm banking on Thielen and Lutz to come up big.

**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 Sportsfreak squad?

**Kyle:** Sports Freak has a great team, but his biggest weakness is his defensive lineup. That's where I think I have the edge.

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

**Kyle:** The key to my team's success is the winning culture I bring with my coaching.

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

**Kyle:** With all the disrespect that's been thrown my way this season, I'm not wishing him any luck—I'm just keeping it "p."

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



*"A lot of people hate on Purdy, but I see his potential!"*

- Kyle Lindgren



*"James Conner was a must-have for me this season."*

- Kyle Lindgren

## Keepers Fantasy Football XXI



Check out the official website!

[www.KeepersFantasyFootball.com](http://www.KeepersFantasyFootball.com)

## Who's Going to Win?

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

### Quarterback: Brock Purdy vs Tua Tagovailoa

I think it is safe to say that neither of these teams are here in the Super Bowl because of their QB's. They are both fine but nothing spectacular. For this week, I like Purdy's matchup better than Tua's. **BIGBOY!** with the edge at QB.

### Wide Receivers: AJ Brown, D London, L McConkey vs C Lamb, DK Metcalf, B Thomas Jr

The WR room for both of these two teams has been solid all season and it wouldn't surprise me if one of these six players will have a monster game and lead their team to a championship. I see this as being close but I would have to give **BIGBOY!** and his trio of receivers a slight edge!

### Running Backs: J. Conner, R. White vs B. Irving, J. Jacobs

The RB room has been a huge strength for Sportsfreak this season and for **BIGBOY!** they don't have any real depth here so the ? tag for Conner is worrisome. I think Sportsfreak has a big edge here at this position and if Conner is out that would be a huge blow for them! I like **Sportsfreak** at RB!

### Tight Ends: T. Kelce vs M. Andrews

An old school TE battle! I don't know how many solid years even of these two TE's have left but there is at least one more year where they can affect whether their team wins a championship. I think this is really close but I am going with Andrews and **Sportsfreak!**

### FLEX: A. Thielen vs Kamara?

I am not convinced that Kamara will play this week so this is a hard one to pick. If Kamara plays I would like him over Thielen. If not, then Thielen. I am going to call this one a Tie for now.

### Kicker: W. Lutz vs C. Dicker

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 C. Dicker and **Sportsfreak!**

### Team Defense: Cincinnati vs Miami

The Cincinnati D has not been good for the most part all year and Cleveland is starting a QB that doesn't feel like he can run a professional offense. I like **Sportsfreak** and the Miami D here.

### Defensive Player: TJ Watt vs Z Franklin

TJ Watt is a stud and always one of the best fantasy D players each and every season. Hard to pick against that and I won't. I like Watt and **BIGBOY!** here.

### **The Verdict:**

I am expecting a really good game. The injury news is going to be key for both. If Conner is out for **BIGBOY!** that is going to be tough for them to overcome. For Sportsfreak, A. Kamara is the big question mark but I think they are better suited to overcome that injury than **BIGBOY!** I went back and forth on who I think will win but I think it is Sportsfreak's year and I think they find a way to get the win and get their first ever Championship!

Good luck to both teams this week!