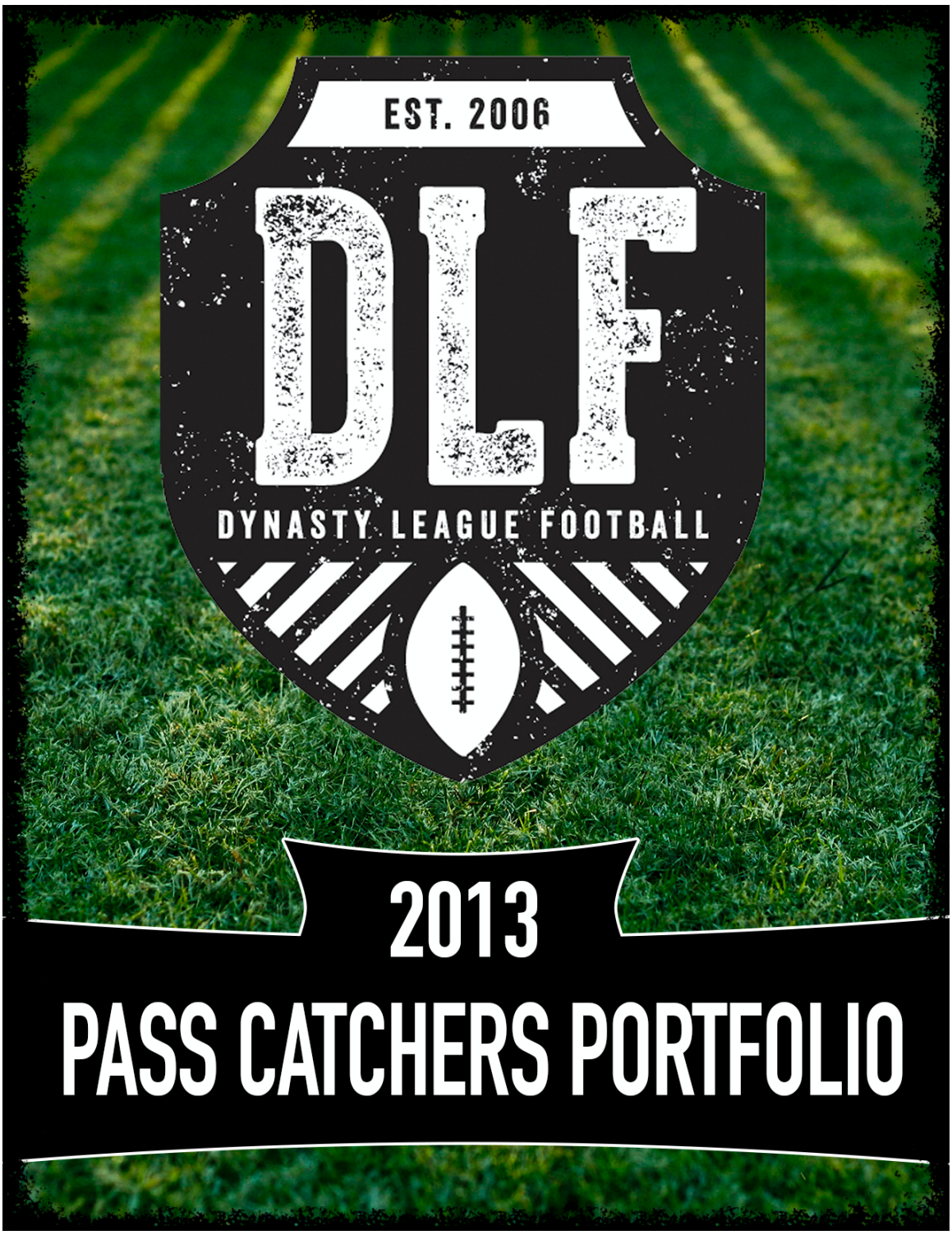
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DYNASTY LEAGUE FOOTBALL
2013
PASS CATCHERS PORTFOLIO

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Introduction

Let's face facts – the NFL has evolved into a passing league. Be it due to scheme or rule changes (or both), the most prevalent method with which NFL offenses move the ball is through the air. To that point, let's consider the numbers from the 2013 season.

Last year across the league there was a total of 18,136 passing attempts. These resulted in an aggregate of 120,626 passing yards and 804 passing touchdowns. This means an average week for an NFL offense would see a final line of 35.4 passing attempts, 235.6 yards and 1.6 touchdowns.

Comparatively speaking, teams moved the ball on the ground at a snail's pace. Summed up, the 2013 rushing statistics were totaled up to 13,871 attempts, 57,795 yards and 410 touchdowns. In other words, an average weekly effort from an NFL team would result in 27.1 attempts for 112.9 yards and 0.8 touchdowns.

The differential is staggering. On a relative basis, the 2013 season saw 1.3 times as many pass attempts as rushes, over a twofold difference in yards and very nearly the same with touchdowns. Considering volume and efficiency, the totality of every team's passing game easily trumped the collective rushing output.

With that said, what does it all mean for fantasy football?

Simply put, the vast majority of fantasy points are being scored through the air. To wit, including the point-per-reception, there were a whopping 28,789.7 points available to the league's pass-catchers in 2013. Breaking it down once again shows that an average week from any NFL team *should* result in 56.2 points being available to its pass catching corps.

Clearly, however, fantasy football doesn't revolve around the law of averages. Each of the 32 different teams bring with them 32 different sets of skill position players, coaches and offensive philosophies. As such, it becomes mandatory to dig deeper to decipher exactly how proficient each team was, as well as how they divvy up the goods, so to speak.

Enter ***The 2013 Pass Catchers' Portfolio.***

Included below is a comprehensive summation of last season's pass-catching data. This includes the results of *every single reception*, right down to the garbage time Hail Mary from the backup quarterback to the third-string tight end. The data was

aggregated and sorted in a variety of manners, yielding both a postmortem breakdown as well as some clues for what the future holds.

Continuing, the Portfolio includes data for every team, as well as positional analyses for the receivers, tight ends and running backs. This raw data is then broken down even further in order to identify any discrepancies that might exist, ultimately culminating in 32 individual team breakdowns. In other words, it's a pass-catching bible!

So if you desire an intensive breakdown of the 2013 season, or seek an edge in projecting 2014, look no further. The 2013 Pass Catchers' Portfolio has what you need, and then some.

Without further adieu, let's get started!

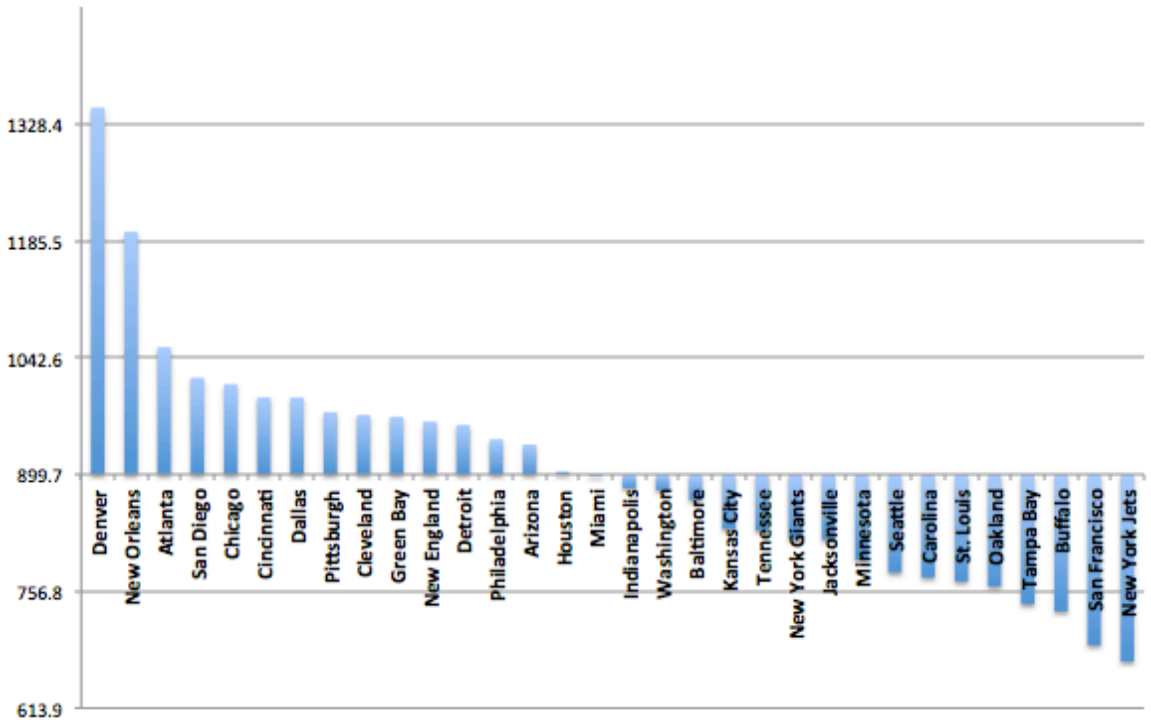
Total Summary of Passing Production

As mentioned in the introduction, there existed a total of 28,789.7 points available to the league's pass catchers in 2013. However, as can be surmised from a simple qualitative understanding of each team, the distribution was far from equitable. To that point, consider the following table that summarizes the totality of the points available to each team's pass-catchers, as well as their average weekly output.

Team	Points	Weekly Average	Team	Points	Weekly Average
Denver	1348.2	84.3	Indianapolis	883.2	55.2
New Orleans	1196.2	74.8	Washington	880.7	55.0
Atlanta	1055.1	65.9	Baltimore	868.4	54.3
San Diego	1017.8	63.6	Kansas City	833.1	52.1
Chicago	1010.0	63.1	Tennessee	831.0	51.9
Cincinnati	993.8	62.1	New York Giants	820.5	51.3
Dallas	993.6	62.1	Jacksonville	820.1	51.3
Pittsburgh	975.6	61.0	Minnesota	795.5	49.7
Cleveland	972.2	60.8	Seattle	779.8	48.7
Green Bay	969.8	60.6	Carolina	773.9	48.4
New England	964.3	60.3	St. Louis	769.0	48.1
Detroit	960.0	60.0	Oakland	762.9	47.7
Philadelphia	942.6	58.9	Tampa Bay	741.1	46.3
Arizona	936.1	58.5	Buffalo	732.3	45.8
Houston	903.3	56.5	San Francisco	691.0	43.2
Miami	897.6	56.1	New York Jets	671.0	41.9

Note that in order to tabulate these point totals, I simply adhered to standard PPR scoring – each reception was worth one point, every yard was worth 0.1 points and every touchdown netted six points. Once again, this took into account *every* reception by a running back, receiver or tight end regardless of their place on the depth chart. Sure, game flow may dictate play calling, but choosing to exclude certain data points would create a subjective nature I strived to avoid.

Getting back to the results, the average yearly output of the 32 entries above was found to be 899.7 points, with a standard deviation of 142.9 points. Digging deeper, it becomes essential to see how well each offense performed relative to that average. The graphical analysis below shows just that.



In the chart above, the origin value represents the average point total of 899.7, and each subdivision on the Y-axis represents the change of a standard deviation (142.9 points). Given this methodology we can see which teams performed in a deviational manner relative to the mean. Sure, we knew that teams like Denver and New Orleans possessed elite passing offenses (and conversely a team like the New York Jets was relatively poor), but the numerical context was lacking.

Using the standard deviation as a baseline barometer, the teams can now be grouped into five distinct categories: aberrantly good, above average, about average, below average and aberrantly bad. For a summary of this breakdown, consider the table below:

Aberrantly Good	Above Average	About Average	Below Average	Aberrantly Bad
Denver	San Diego	Philadelphia	Kansas City	Tampa Bay
New Orleans	Chicago	Arizona	Tennessee	Buffalo
Atlanta	Cincinnati	Houston	New York Giants	San Francisco
-	Dallas	Miami	Jacksonville	New York Jets
-	Pittsburgh	Indianapolis	Minnesota	-
-	Cleveland	Washington	Seattle	-
-	Green Bay	Baltimore	Carolina	-
-	New England	-	St. Louis	-
-	Detroit	-	Oakland	-

As expected, this delineation effectively forms a pseudo-bell curve, where the vast majority of teams surround the average. On a more microscopic level, it's clear players on teams in either of the first two columns had the bonus of increased expectations with regards to point availability, while the converse can be claimed for players on the teams in the two rightmost columns. While this doesn't inherently provide an advantage on an individual level (talent is talent, after all), it can help explain why situation does in fact matter.

With this general understanding in hand, it's time to delve deeper. The aggregate point totals in and of themselves are useful to determine the proficiencies of each offense, but they also beg a logical follow-up question – how were the points on each team broken down by position? The next section covers exactly that.

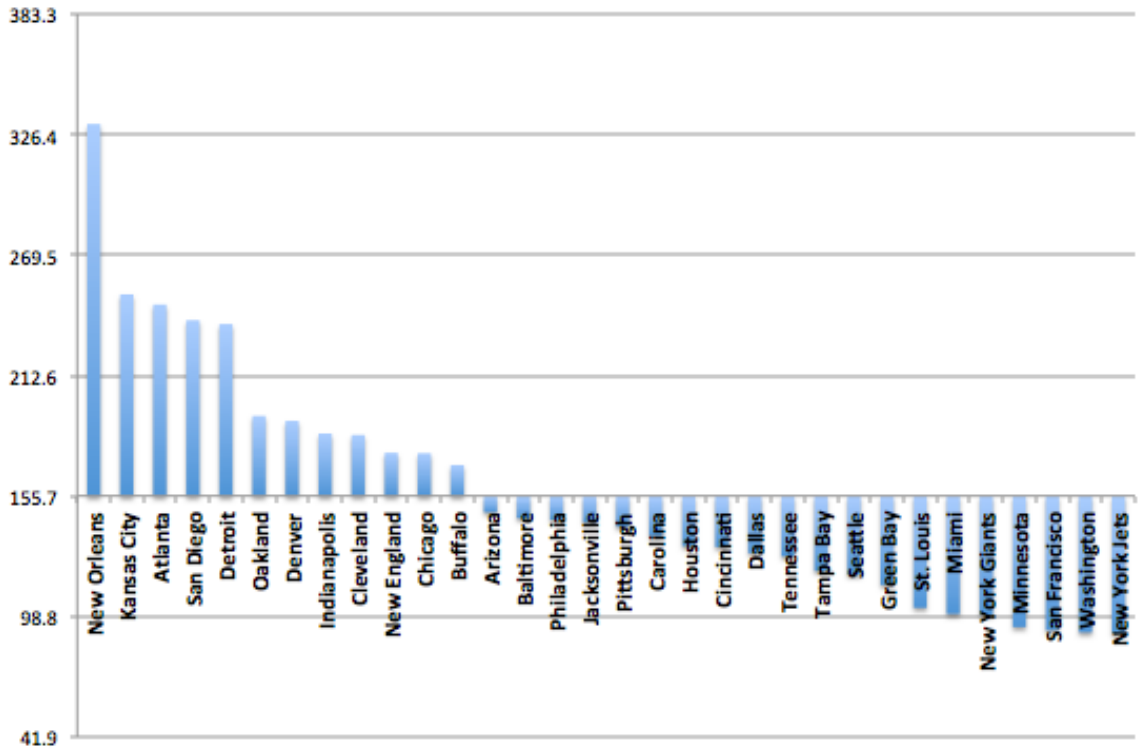
League-Wide Positional Breakdown

While the previous section effectively differentiated the league's passing offenses by fantasy competence, it remains imperative to determine *how* the points were achieved. Put another way, which positional groups amongst all the teams were the ones to target? To reiterate once again, this includes *every reception by a skill position player*.

Let's start with the running backs. Shown on the page below is a table summarizing the totalities of the receptions, yards and touchdowns for each team's ball carrying corps. Using standard PPR scoring, summations were achieved and the teams were ranked accordingly.

Team	Receptions	Yards	TDs	Points
New Orleans	171	1244	6	331.4
Kansas City	106	969	8	250.9
Atlanta	127	831	6	246.1
San Diego	112	847	7	238.7
Detroit	111	1079	3	236.9
Oakland	96	855	2	193.5
Denver	92	812	3	191.2
Indianapolis	84	712	5	185.2
Cleveland	96	645	4	184.5
New England	84	741	3	176.1
Chicago	82	699	4	175.9
Buffalo	92	663	2	170.3
Arizona	76	660	1	148.0
Baltimore	91	482	1	145.2
Philadelphia	64	684	2	144.4
Jacksonville	82	552	1	143.2
Pittsburgh	76	592	1	141.2
Carolina	62	568	3	136.8
Houston	77	490	1	132.0
Cincinnati	60	536	3	131.6
Dallas	72	507	1	128.7
Tennessee	58	452	4	127.2
Tampa Bay	76	383	1	120.3
Seattle	54	465	3	118.5
Green Bay	62	457	1	113.7
St. Louis	57	399	1	102.9
Miami	49	330	3	100.0
New York Giants	57	365	1	99.5
Minnesota	55	328	1	93.8
San Francisco	48	443	0	92.3
Washington	45	403	1	91.3
New York Jets	53	378	0	90.8

Keeping with the methodology seen in the previous section, an average value of 155.7 points was determined, with a standard deviation of 56.9 points. Shown graphically, the data can then be arranged relative to the average and this is seen below.



Once again, these teams can now be grouped into the five categories shown before.

Aberrantly Good	Above Average	About Average	Below Average	Aberrantly Bad
New Orleans	Oakland	New England	Tennessee	New York Giants
Kansas City	Denver	Chicago	Tampa Bay	Minnesota
Atlanta	Indianapolis	Buffalo	Seattle	San Francisco
San Diego	Cleveland	Arizona	Green Bay	Washington
Detroit	-	Baltimore	St. Louis	New York Jets
-	-	Philadelphia	Miami	-
-	-	Jacksonville	-	-
-	-	Pittsburgh	-	-
-	-	Carolina	-	-
-	-	Houston	-	-
-	-	Cincinnati	-	-
-	-	Dallas	-	-

Interestingly enough the distribution was skewed towards the average/below average teams, as 20 teams fell below the average of 155.7 points. This was due to the aberrantly good teams being, well, more aberrantly good than the aberrantly bad teams were aberrantly bad. Paced by New Orleans, a team that was a whopping *three standard deviations* above the average, it was clear to see which squads were

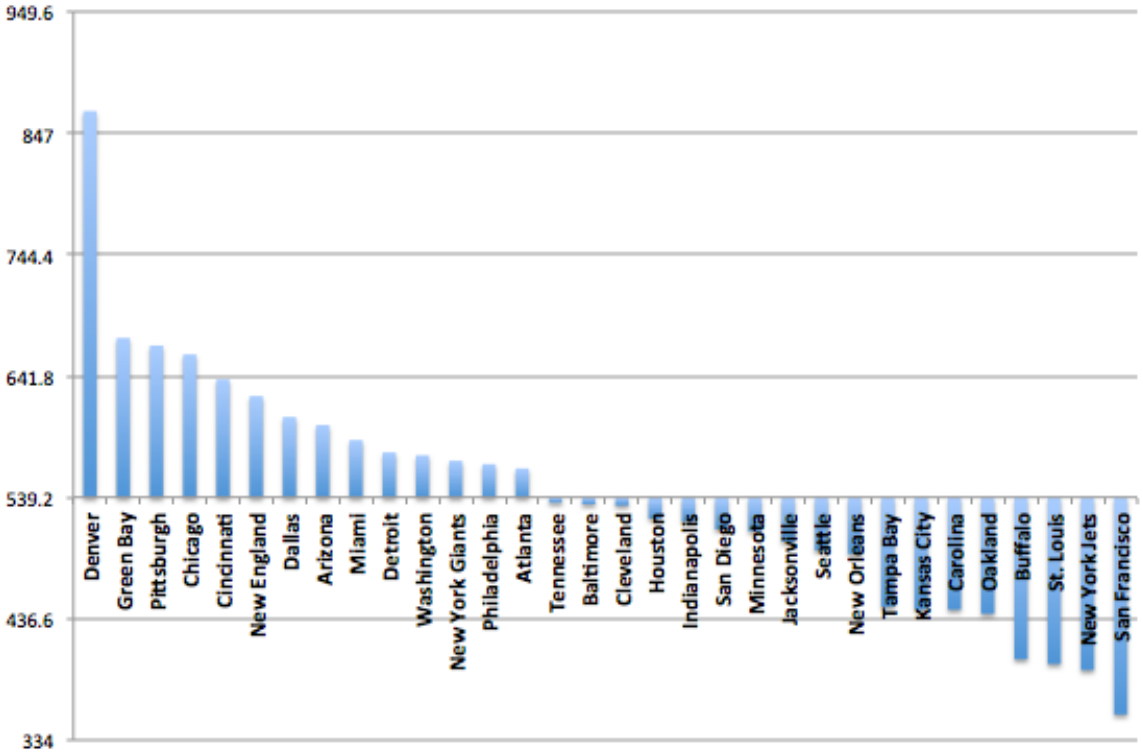
the cream of the passing game crop with regards to running backs. On average, the five aberrantly good teams provided 16.3 points to their ball carriers every week.

Conversely, the five aberrantly bad teams provided only 5.8 PPR points per game. While in some cases this is a byproduct of the offensive output as a whole, it's important to note. The team breakdowns will provide more insight on this.

Next are the receivers, with the data shown below (analogous to the running backs).

Team	Receptions	Yards	TD's	Points
Denver	268	3696	38	865.6
Green Bay	234	3319	18	673.9
Pittsburgh	231	2925	24	667.5
Chicago	224	2980	23	660.0
Cincinnati	215	2859	23	638.9
New England	243	2858	16	624.8
Dallas	209	2661	22	607.1
Arizona	209	2833	18	600.3
Miami	226	2776	14	587.6
Detroit	192	2832	17	577.2
Washington	226	2767	12	574.7
New York Giants	205	2871	13	570.1
Philadelphia	175	2722	20	567.2
Atlanta	224	2796	10	563.6
Tennessee	202	2667	11	534.7
Baltimore	193	2623	13	533.3
Cleveland	188	2663	13	532.3
Houston	202	2652	9	521.2
Indianapolis	200	2348	14	518.8
San Diego	168	2362	18	512.2
Minnesota	192	2466	12	510.6
Jacksonville	210	2436	8	501.6
Seattle	157	2352	17	494.2
New Orleans	164	2433	14	491.3
Tampa Bay	153	2097	14	446.7
Kansas City	173	2055	11	444.5
Carolina	156	1983	15	444.3
Oakland	157	2238	10	440.8
Buffalo	144	1924	11	402.4
St. Louis	147	1914	10	398.4
New York Jets	149	2023	7	393.3
San Francisco	133	1746	8	355.6

The average for the 32 teams above was calculated to be 532.9 points with a standard deviation of 102.6 points. This breakdown can be seen graphically below:



Similar to the running back data shown above, there is a bias towards the number of underachieving offenses, largely dictated by the ridiculousness that was the 2013 Denver passing game. With an average of 54.7 weekly points available to Bronco receivers, it's no surprise three of them (**Demaryius Thomas**, **Eric Decker** and **Wes Welker**) finished amongst the top-21 PPR scorers at the position. The qualitative scoring breakdown can be seen on the next page.

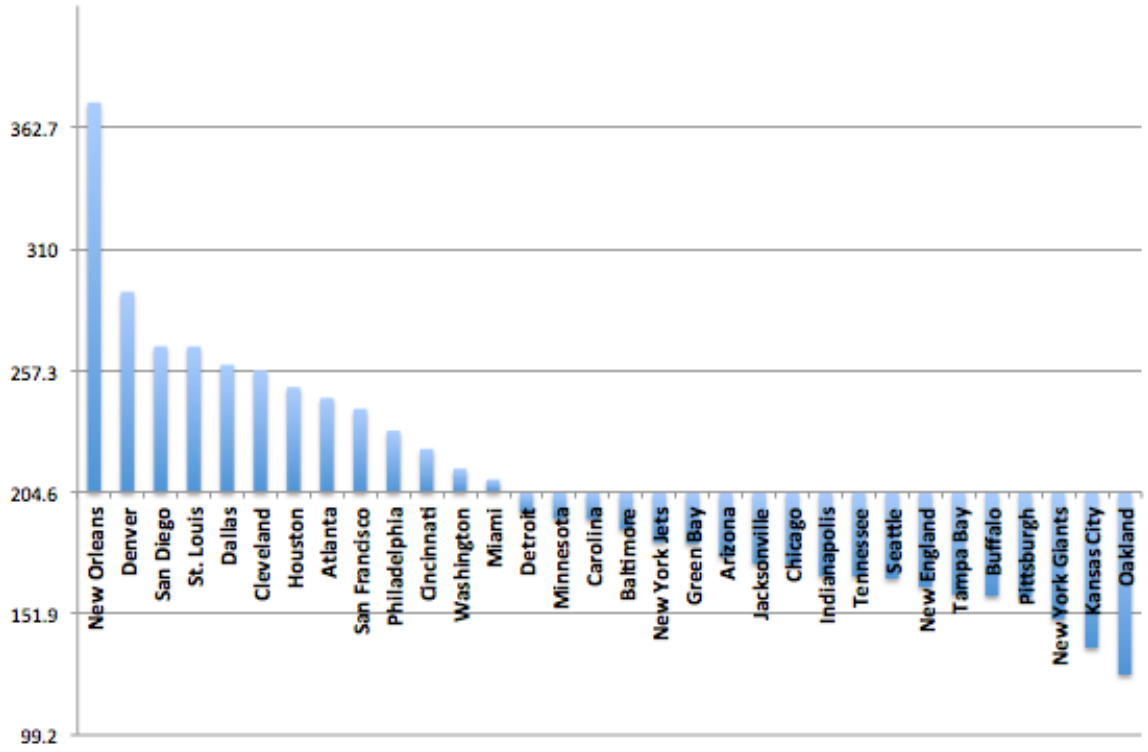
Aberrantly Good	Above Average	About Average	Below Average	Aberrantly Bad
Denver	Cincinnati	Detroit	Tampa Bay	Buffalo
Green Bay	New England	Washington	Kansas City	St. Louis
Pittsburgh	Dallas	New York Giants	Carolina	New York Jets
Chicago	Arizona	Philadelphia	Oakland	San Francisco
-	Miami	Atlanta	-	-
-	-	Tennessee	-	-
-	-	Baltimore	-	-
-	-	Cleveland	-	-
-	-	Houston	-	-
-	-	Indianapolis	-	-
-	-	San Diego	-	-
-	-	Minnesota	-	-
-	-	Jacksonville	-	-
-	-	Seattle	-	-
-	-	New Orleans	-	-

While a relatively solid bell curve can still be seen amongst the 32 squads, 18 teams remained below the average. Three-quarters of the teams were within one standard deviation of the weekly average (33.3 ± 6.4 points), with only eight aberrant outliers. Excluding Denver, the remaining three aberrantly good teams averaged 41.7 points per week to their receivers, while the four aberrantly bad teams could only generate a paltry 24.2 weekly points.

To conclude this section let's discuss the tight ends, with the seasonal outputs shown on the next page.

Team	Receptions	Yards	TD's	Points
New Orleans	111	1485	19	373.5
Denver	101	1064	14	291.4
San Diego	98	1278	7	267.8
St. Louis	97	1047	11	267.7
Dallas	94	1058	10	259.8
Cleveland	97	1064	9	257.4
Houston	92	1041	9	250.1
Atlanta	94	914	10	245.4
San Francisco	62	1007	13	240.7
Philadelphia	71	1002	10	231.2
Cincinnati	89	923	7	223.3
Washington	84	887	7	214.7
Miami	82	860	7	210.0
Detroit	68	739	9	195.9
Minnesota	78	851	5	193.1
Carolina	74	828	6	192.8
Baltimore	78	803	5	188.3
New York Jets	62	849	6	182.9
Green Bay	70	762	6	182.2
Arizona	72	744	5	176.4
Jacksonville	56	754	7	173.4
Chicago	66	772	5	173.2
Indianapolis	65	731	5	168.1
Tennessee	67	591	7	168.1
Seattle	56	691	7	167.1
New England	53	744	6	163.4
Tampa Bay	61	630	6	160.0
Buffalo	63	786	3	159.6
Pittsburgh	69	776	2	158.6
New York Giants	62	634	4	149.4
Kansas City	53	541	5	137.1
Oakland	45	504	5	125.4

The average of the sums above was found to be 204.6 points with a standard deviation of 52.7 points. This data can be observed graphically below.



Once again we have an outlier ruining the curve, as New Orleans was over three standard deviations above the average. With (arguably) the best tight end in the game, **Jimmy Graham**, at their disposal this isn't terribly surprising. The qualitative breakdown can be viewed below.

Aberrantly Good	Above Average	About Average	Below Average	Aberrantly Bad
New Orleans	Houston	Cincinnati	Jacksonville	New York Giants
Denver	Atlanta	Washington	Chicago	Kansas City
San Diego	San Francisco	Miami	Indianapolis	Oakland
St. Louis	Philadelphia	Detroit	Tennessee	-
Dallas	-	Minnesota	Seattle	-
Cleveland	-	Carolina	New England	-
-	-	Baltimore	Tampa Bay	-
-	-	New York Jets	Buffalo	-
-	-	Green Bay	Pittsburgh	-
-	-	Arizona	-	-

With only 13 teams above the average, the bell curve is shifted more to the subpar tight end offenses. Despite that, six teams were at least one standard deviation above average – excluding the Saints, the remaining five teams provided 16.8 points to their TE corps every Sunday. Conversely, the three aberrantly bad teams could only muster a mere 8.6 weekly points.

Well this information is obviously useful, it has its limitations. After all, it stands to reason that better offenses *should* have more passing points available to their skill position players. To that end, the high flying Denver attack was ranked with the seventh most points to running backs, first for receivers and second for tight ends. New Orleans wasn't terribly far behind at first for running backs, 24th for receivers and first again for tight ends.

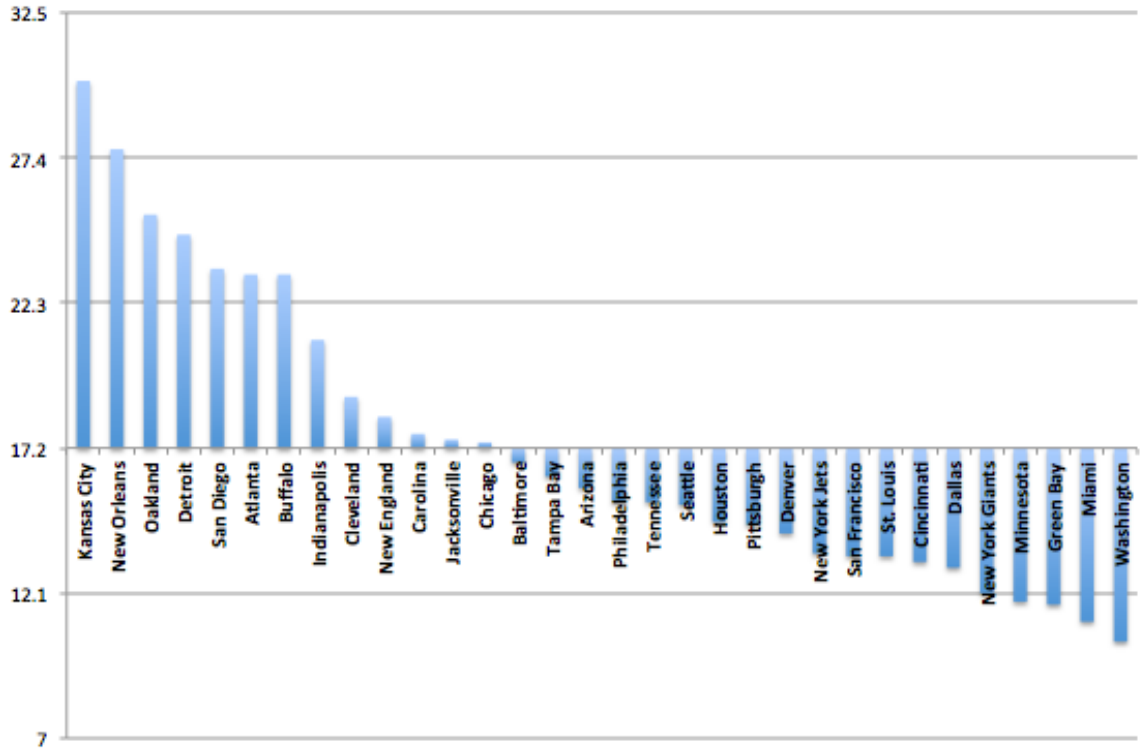
With that said, these raw points tell us very little about each offense's passing preference. In other words, what percentage of points was available to each team's skill positions? I'll provide the answer to that in the next section.

Positional Percentages

As mentioned at the conclusion of the previous section we need to dig deeper than the raw positional point totals. The 32 passing games were unequal, causing the juggernauts to outpace the "other guys" on an absolute level. Finding the positional percentages puts each team on even footing – let's start with the running backs.

Team	Total Points	RB Points	RB % Total Points
Kansas City	833.1	250.9	30.1
New Orleans	1196.2	331.4	27.7
Oakland	762.9	193.5	25.4
Detroit	960.0	236.9	24.7
San Diego	1017.8	238.7	23.5
Atlanta	1055.1	246.1	23.3
Buffalo	732.3	170.3	23.3
Indianapolis	883.2	185.2	21.0
Cleveland	972.2	184.5	19.0
New England	964.3	176.1	18.3
Carolina	773.9	136.8	17.7
Jacksonville	820.1	143.2	17.5
Chicago	1010.0	175.9	17.4
Baltimore	868.4	145.2	16.7
Tampa Bay	741.1	120.3	16.2
Arizona	936.1	148.0	15.8
Philadelphia	942.6	144.4	15.3
Tennessee	831.0	127.2	15.3
Seattle	779.8	118.5	15.2
Houston	903.3	132.0	14.6
Pittsburgh	975.6	141.2	14.5
Denver	1348.2	191.2	14.2
New York Jets	671.0	90.8	13.5
San Francisco	691.0	92.3	13.4
St. Louis	769.0	102.9	13.4
Cincinnati	993.8	131.6	13.2
Dallas	993.6	128.7	13.0
New York Giants	820.5	99.5	12.1
Minnesota	795.5	93.8	11.8
Green Bay	969.8	113.7	11.7
Miami	897.6	100.0	11.1
Washington	880.7	91.3	10.4

To obtain the percentages, shown in the rightmost column, I simply divided the points to the running backs (second column from the right) by the total passing points (second column from the left) and multiplied by 100. The values were then sorted in a descending manner. The average of these percentages was found to be 17.2% with a standard deviation of 5.1%. This can be seen graphically below.



As we've seen previously, a few aberrational teams can wreck the curve. In this case both Kansas City and New Orleans were over two full standard deviations above the average, with five more teams at least one standard deviation higher. On the aggregate this led to a whopping 19 teams falling below the Mendoza line. A breakdown can be seen on the next page.

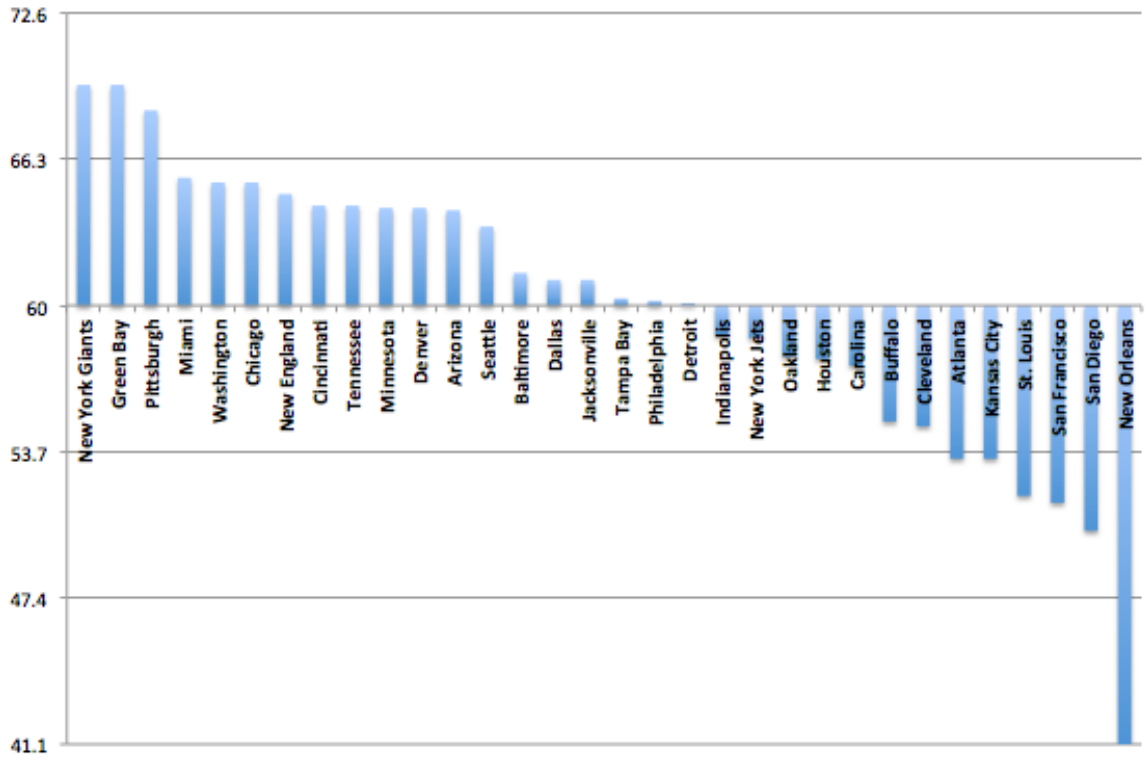
Aberrantly High	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Aberrantly Low
Kansas City	Indianapolis	Cleveland	Houston	New York Giants
New Orleans	-	New England	Pittsburgh	Minnesota
Oakland	-	Carolina	Denver	Green Bay
Detroit	-	Jacksonville	New York Jets	Miami
San Diego	-	Chicago	San Francisco	Washington
Atlanta	-	Baltimore	St. Louis	-
Buffalo	-	Tampa Bay	Cincinnati	-
-	-	Arizona	Dallas	-
-	-	Philadelphia	-	-
-	-	Tennessee	-	-
-	-	Seattle	-	-

The seven teams with aberrantly high percentages averaged 25.4% of their passing output to the running back position, while the five aberrantly low teams averaged 11.4%. This shows us two things – first and foremost, ball carriers didn't receive a large proportion of the passing points relative to the other offensive positions. Second, building from that, some teams essentially avoided the running back position, with roughly one point out of every 10 available to the ball carrying corps.

Where did those points go then? Continuing with the receivers provides insight into just that.

Team	Total Points	WR Points	WR % Total Points
New York Giants	820.5	570.1	69.5
Green Bay	969.8	673.9	69.5
Pittsburgh	975.6	667.5	68.4
Miami	897.6	587.6	65.5
Washington	880.7	574.7	65.3
Chicago	1010.0	660.0	65.3
New England	964.3	624.8	64.8
Cincinnati	993.8	638.9	64.3
Tennessee	831.0	534.7	64.3
Minnesota	795.5	510.6	64.2
Denver	1348.2	865.6	64.2
Arizona	936.1	600.3	64.1
Seattle	779.8	494.2	63.4
Baltimore	868.4	533.3	61.4
Dallas	993.6	607.1	61.1
Jacksonville	820.1	501.6	61.1
Tampa Bay	741.1	446.7	60.3
Philadelphia	942.6	567.2	60.2
Detroit	960.0	577.2	60.1
Indianapolis	883.2	518.8	58.7
New York Jets	671.0	393.3	58.6
Oakland	762.9	440.8	57.8
Houston	903.3	521.2	57.7
Carolina	773.9	444.3	57.4
Buffalo	732.3	402.4	55.0
Cleveland	972.2	532.3	54.8
Atlanta	1055.1	563.6	53.4
Kansas City	833.1	444.5	53.4
St. Louis	769.0	398.4	51.8
San Francisco	691.0	355.6	51.5
San Diego	1017.8	512.2	50.3
New Orleans	1196.2	491.3	41.1

The totality of the above data saw an average of 60.0% of the passing points go to wide receivers, with a standard deviation of 6.3%. This can be seen pictorially on the next page.



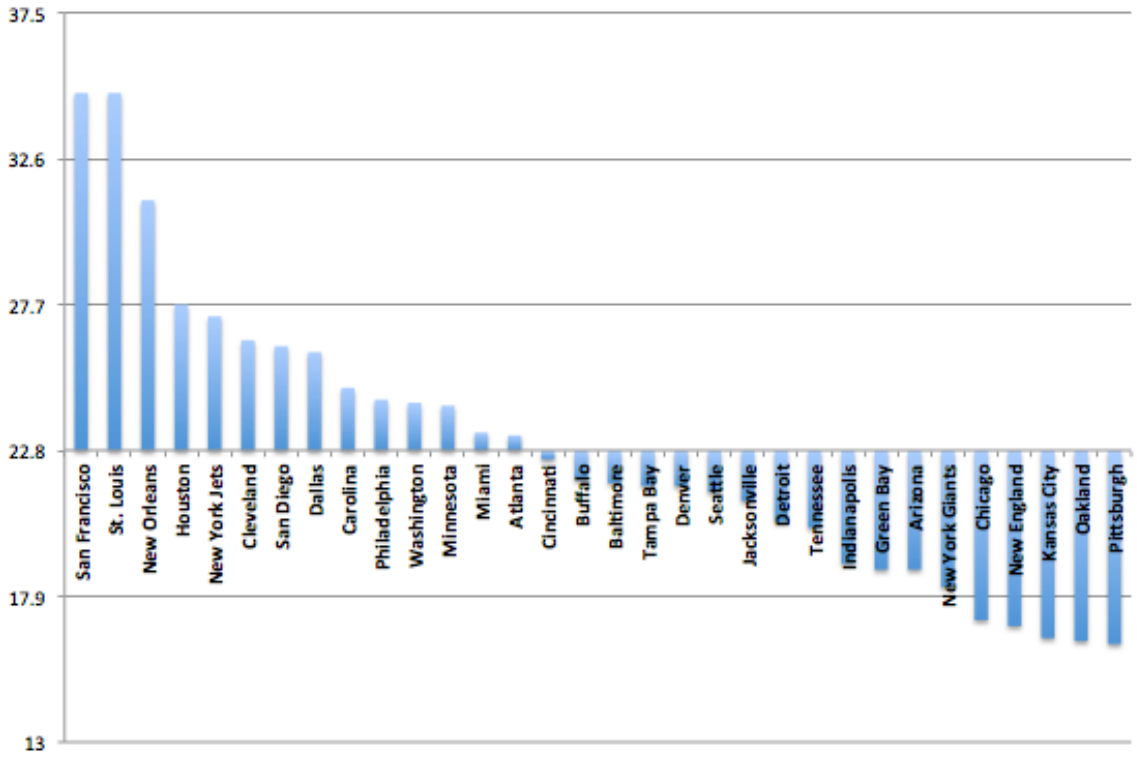
The receiver trend is very nearly the inverse of what was observed with the running backs. In this case the Saints were exceptionally proportionally low, falling exactly three standard deviations below the average. This should come as no surprise, as the previous section detailed the passing-game proficiency of their running backs and tight ends. Excluding the Saints, the other five aberrantly low teams averaged 52.1% of their passing points to their receivers. The three aberrantly high teams saw an average of 69.1% of points go to the receiver position. A detailed breakdown is shown below.

Aberrantly High	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Aberrantly Low
New York Giants	Miami	Baltimore	Buffalo	Atlanta
Green Bay	Washington	Dallas	Cleveland	Kansas City
Pittsburgh	Chicago	Jacksonville	-	St. Louis
-	New England	Tampa Bay	-	San Francisco
-	Cincinnati	Philadelphia	-	San Diego
-	Tennessee	Detroit	-	New Orleans
-	Minnesota	Indianapolis	-	-
-	Denver	New York Jets	-	-
-	Arizona	Oakland	-	-
-	Seattle	Houston	-	-
-	-	Carolina	-	-

Once more, let's conclude with the tight end position.

Team	Total Points	TE Points	TE % Total Points
San Francisco	691.0	240.7	34.8
St. Louis	769.0	267.7	34.8
New Orleans	1196.2	373.5	31.2
Houston	903.3	250.1	27.7
New York Jets	671.0	182.9	27.3
Cleveland	972.2	257.4	26.5
San Diego	1017.8	267.8	26.3
Dallas	993.6	259.8	26.1
Carolina	773.9	192.8	24.9
Philadelphia	942.6	231.2	24.5
Washington	880.7	214.7	24.4
Minnesota	795.5	193.1	24.3
Miami	897.6	210.0	23.4
Atlanta	1055.1	245.4	23.3
Cincinnati	993.8	223.3	22.5
Buffalo	732.3	159.6	21.8
Baltimore	868.4	188.3	21.7
Tampa Bay	741.1	160.0	21.6
Denver	1348.2	291.4	21.6
Seattle	779.8	167.1	21.4
Jacksonville	820.1	173.4	21.1
Detroit	960.0	195.9	20.4
Tennessee	831.0	168.1	20.2
Indianapolis	883.2	168.1	19.0
Green Bay	969.8	182.2	18.8
Arizona	936.1	176.4	18.8
New York Giants	820.5	149.4	18.2
Chicago	1010.0	173.2	17.1
New England	964.3	163.4	16.9
Kansas City	833.1	137.1	16.5
Oakland	762.9	125.4	16.4
Pittsburgh	975.6	158.6	16.3

Tabulating the entirety of the above sees an average of 22.8% of passing points being available to the tight end position, with a standard deviation of 4.9%. The illustrative breakdown can be seen on the next page.



The chart above was fairly similar to the running back data, albeit slightly less top-heavy. Both the 49ers and Rams were over two standard deviations above average, causing a shift to 18 teams being below the average. Once again, the qualitative analysis can be seen below.

Aberrantly High	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Aberrantly Low
San Francisco	Houston	Carolina	Tennessee	Chicago
St. Louis	New York Jets	Philadelphia	Indianapolis	New England
New Orleans	Cleveland	Washington	Green Bay	Kansas City
-	San Diego	Minnesota	Arizona	Oakland
-	Dallas	Miami	New York Giants	Pittsburgh
-	-	Atlanta	-	-
-	-	Cincinnati	-	-
-	-	Buffalo	-	-
-	-	Baltimore	-	-
-	-	Tampa Bay	-	-
-	-	Denver	-	-
-	-	Seattle	-	-
-	-	Jacksonville	-	-
-	-	Detroit	-	-

Very nearly fitting a true bell curve shape, the vast majority of teams surrounded the average percentage. Speaking to the outliers, the three aberrantly high teams averaged 33.6% of points to the tight end position, while the five aberrantly low teams averaged less than half that at 16.6%. On the whole, the tight end average of 22.8% represented only 38.0% of the points available to receivers, but 132.6% of the points available to running backs.

While we've delved deeper into each of the 32 offenses, there remains more work to do. This section can now be combined with the previous section in order to glean a clearer picture of the scope of each passing offense.

Let's keep digging…

Production and Percentage Variance

As I mentioned earlier, each of the previous two sections represent useful, albeit incomplete data sets. They've provided insight into which position groups score the most points, as well as which are preferred within their respective offenses. However, as of yet we lack the glue to bind them together.

In essence though, the data in each section has effectively provided us with two unique sets of rankings for the three positions. As such we now have a basis of comparison, and I intend to use that to my advantage. Finding the difference between each team's points rank (section three) and percentage rank (section four) can afford us deeper comprehension as to which positions were *actually* highlighted in each respective offense, regardless of how proficient the team in question was.

The two paragraphs might seem confusing on the surface, so perhaps an example would help. Looking to the running back position, the New York Jets only generated 90.8 fantasy points through the air to their ball carriers, "good" for dead last in the league (32). Of their total passing points, 13.5% went to the running backs, culminating in a rank of #23 amongst every team. By virtue of subtracting the percentage rank from the total point rank, the Jets come away with a difference of +9.

This is suggestive of a bigger picture scenario. Sure, the Jets offense was terrible in 2013, and as such there were very few points available to *all* the skill position players. However, a rank of #23 with regards to the percentage breakdown implies that, if all things were equal, the Jets running backs would have had the 23rd most points available to them. The difference of +9, tops amongst all the running back corps, effectually tells us that the possibility of improvement is very real.

This methodology is not without flaws – the better teams will be inherently punished and a rosier outlook will be displayed for the lesser passing offenses. With that said, refinement will be pursued, both later in this section as well as in the individual team breakdowns. So without further adieu, let's get to the data, starting with the ball carriers!

Team	Points Rank	% Rank	Change
New York Jets	32	23	9
Tampa Bay	23	15	8
Carolina	18	11	7
San Francisco	30	24	6
Buffalo	12	6	6
Seattle	24	19	5
Tennessee	22	17	5
Jacksonville	16	12	4
Oakland	6	3	3
St. Louis	26	24	2
Kansas City	2	1	1
Detroit	5	4	1
Indianapolis	8	8	0
Cleveland	9	9	0
New England	10	10	0
Baltimore	14	14	0
New York Giants	28	28	0
Minnesota	29	29	0
New Orleans	1	2	-1
San Diego	4	5	-1
Houston	19	20	-1
Washington	31	32	-1
Chicago	11	13	-2
Philadelphia	15	17	-2
Atlanta	3	6	-3
Arizona	13	16	-3
Pittsburgh	17	21	-4
Miami	27	31	-4
Green Bay	25	30	-5
Cincinnati	20	26	-6
Dallas	21	27	-6
Denver	7	22	-15

The subtractive value is shown in the rightmost column, and will be the basis of subsequent analysis. Once again, the teams at the top of the table above are those that *should* have had a larger expected positional output. Conversely, the ball carriers on the teams at the bottom of the table were more likely byproducts of offenses with a larger aggregate output as opposed to any kind of positional preference. Teams in the middle of the table (around a change of zero) effectively represent expected production.

Once again, a disclaimer needs to be made. These "change" values are inherently biased for or against teams on the extreme ends of the "points rank" spectrum. It's a useful piece of information, but in no way denotes a perfect system.

Let's continue with the receivers.

Team	Points Rank	% Rank	Change
New York Giants	12	1	11
Minnesota	21	10	11
Seattle	23	13	10
New York Jets	31	21	10
Tampa Bay	25	17	8
Tennessee	15	8	7
Jacksonville	22	15	7
Washington	11	5	6
Oakland	28	22	6
Miami	9	4	5
Buffalo	29	25	4
Carolina	27	24	3
Baltimore	16	14	2
San Francisco	32	30	2
St. Louis	30	29	1
Green Bay	2	1	1
Pittsburgh	3	3	0
New England	6	7	-1
Indianapolis	19	20	-1
Chicago	4	5	-1
Kansas City	26	27	-1
Cincinnati	5	8	-3
Arizona	8	12	-4
Philadelphia	13	18	-5
Houston	18	23	-5
Dallas	7	15	-8
New Orleans	24	32	-8
Detroit	10	19	-9
Cleveland	17	26	-9
Denver	1	10	-9
San Diego	20	31	-11
Atlanta	14	27	-13

Finally, let's conclude with the tight ends.

Team	Points Rank	% Rank	Change
New York Jets	18	5	13
Buffalo	28	16	12
Tampa Bay	27	18	9
San Francisco	9	1	8
Carolina	16	9	7
Seattle	25	20	5
Minnesota	15	12	3
Houston	7	4	3
New York Giants	30	27	3
St. Louis	4	1	3
Washington	12	11	1
Kansas City	31	30	1
Oakland	32	31	1
Tennessee	23	23	0
Cleveland	6	6	0
Philadelphia	10	10	0
Miami	13	13	0
Baltimore	17	17	0
Jacksonville	21	21	0
Indianapolis	23	24	-1
New Orleans	1	3	-2
Dallas	5	8	-3
New England	26	29	-3
Pittsburgh	29	32	-3
San Diego	3	7	-4
Cincinnati	11	15	-4
Arizona	20	25	-5
Atlanta	8	14	-6
Green Bay	19	25	-6
Chicago	22	28	-6
Detroit	14	22	-8
Denver	2	18	-16

Perusing each of the three tables above sheds light upon which positional groups could be in store for an upgrade, as well as where regression is likeliest to hit. The bigger the number means the larger discrepancy between actual points and expected points. However, that absolute magnitude can be somewhat misleading.

For example, let's consider the table for the wide receivers. Both the New York Giants and the Minnesota Vikings are tied for top billing, each with a change of +11. With that said, each team had a different "points rank" starting point, begging the question as to whether or not each of these +11 changes are created equally?

In my opinion, that's not the case. The Vikings had the 21st most passing points to wide receivers – when coupled with a rank of #10 for the positional percentage, a change of +11 is achieved. On the other hand, the Giants were already proficient in passing the ball to their wide receivers, as evidenced by the fact they were the 12th best team with regards to total points to receivers. Considering the Giants were only the 22nd best offense in total passing points (section two), this was no small feat.

Continuing, the Giants' receivers accrued 69.5% of the team's points from passing, good for a tie for first amongst every squad. As such, the Giants' achieved the same change of +11, but in a dramatically different manner. This stark contrast highlights why a "process over results" methodology is necessitated, as distinctions clearly need to be made.

In order to accomplish this I took the "change" number (rightmost column in each table above), divided it by the initial points rank (second column from the left in each table) and then multiplied by 100. This affords a percent difference between the total change and the initial rank, where larger numbers represent bigger accomplishments. Getting back to the Giants, a +11 change with an initial rank of 12 was the best-case scenario – this achievement deserves to be identified, as do similar accomplishments across all the positional possibilities.

The following three tables highlight these percent differences for each of the three skill positions. To reiterate, there remains a slant toward deviant offenses, but the following data is significantly more accurate. Once more, let's begin with the ball carriers!

Team	Points Rank	Change	% Change
Oakland	6	3	50.0
Kansas City	2	1	50.0
Buffalo	12	6	50.0
Carolina	18	7	38.9
Tampa Bay	23	8	34.8
New York Jets	32	9	28.1
Jacksonville	16	4	25.0
Tennessee	22	5	22.7
Seattle	24	5	20.8
San Francisco	30	6	20.0
Detroit	5	1	20.0
St. Louis	26	2	7.7
Indianapolis	8	0	0
Cleveland	9	0	0
New England	10	0	0
Baltimore	14	0	0
New York Giants	28	0	0
Minnesota	29	0	0
Washington	31	-1	-3.2
Houston	19	-1	-5.3
Philadelphia	15	-2	-13.3
Miami	27	-4	-14.8
Chicago	11	-2	-18.2
Green Bay	25	-5	-20.0
Arizona	13	-3	-23.1
Pittsburgh	17	-4	-23.5
San Diego	4	-1	-25.0
Dallas	21	-6	-28.6
Cincinnati	20	-6	-30.0
New Orleans	1	-1	-100.0
Atlanta	3	-3	-100.0
Denver	7	-15	-214.2

Next, let's chronicle the receivers.

Team	Points Rank	Change	% Change
New York Giants	12	11	91.7
Miami	9	5	55.6
Washington	11	6	54.5
Minnesota	21	11	52.4
Green Bay	2	1	50.0
Tennessee	15	7	46.7
Seattle	23	10	43.5
New York Jets	31	10	32.3
Jacksonville	22	7	31.8
Tampa Bay	25	8	31.3
Oakland	28	6	21.4
Buffalo	29	4	13.8
Baltimore	16	2	12.5
Carolina	27	3	11.1
San Francisco	32	2	6.3
St. Louis	30	1	3.3
Pittsburgh	3	0	0
Kansas City	26	-1	-3.8
Indianapolis	19	-1	-5.3
New England	6	-1	-16.7
Chicago	4	-1	-25.0
Houston	18	-5	-27.8
New Orleans	24	-8	-33.3
Philadelphia	13	-5	-38.5
Arizona	8	-4	-50.0
Cleveland	17	-9	-52.9
San Diego	20	-11	-55.0
Cincinnati	5	-3	-60.0
Detroit	10	-9	-90.0
Atlanta	14	-13	-92.8
Dallas	7	-8	-114.2
Denver	1	-9	-900.0

Finally, let's discuss the tight ends.

Team	Points Rank	Change	% Change
San Francisco	9	8	88.9
St. Louis	4	3	75.0
New York Jets	18	13	72.2
Carolina	16	7	43.8
Houston	7	3	42.9
Buffalo	28	12	42.9
Tampa Bay	27	9	33.3
Seattle	25	5	20.0
Minnesota	15	3	20.0
New York Giants	30	3	10.0
Washington	12	1	8.3
Kansas City	31	1	3.2
Oakland	32	1	3.1
Tennessee	23	0	0
Cleveland	6	0	0
Philadelphia	10	0	0
Miami	13	0	0
Baltimore	17	0	0
Jacksonville	21	0	0
Indianapolis	23	-1	-4.3
Pittsburgh	29	-3	-10.3
New England	26	-3	-11.5
Arizona	20	-5	-25.0
Chicago	22	-6	-27.3
Green Bay	19	-6	-31.6
Cincinnati	11	-4	-36.4
Detroit	14	-8	-57.1
Dallas	5	-3	-60.0
Atlanta	8	-6	-75.0
San Diego	3	-4	-133.3
New Orleans	1	-2	-200.0
Denver	2	-16	-800.0

Now you might have noticed I've largely refrained from commentary in this section. First and foremost I want the numbers to speak for themselves, highlighting any discrepancies between the previous two chapters. More importantly though, the conclusion of this Pass Catchers' Portfolio will recount the passing output from each and every team, drawing from all the prior sections in order to give a thorough explanation of each offense's 2013 season, as well as a prediction for what the 2014 might bring.

Individual Team Evaluations

If we look at the entirety of this Portfolio as a puzzle, the previous sections are akin to flipping over the pieces and lining them up in a rough facsimile of where they belong. The individual parts are there, but as of yet they haven't been brought together. This last section, where I'll break down each of the 32 teams, serves to do just that.

Each summary will begin with an overview of the squad's 2013 passing campaign, presented both textually and pictorially. Three graphical analyses will be included, and they are listed as follows:

Points Overview – A summation of how the total points were split up amongst the three skill positions. The positional ranks for each unit are also included using parenthetical notation in the legend.

Percent Breakdown Overview – This will condense the percentages of points scored by each position (blue lines), while once again showing where these percentages ranked amongst all 32 teams (red lines).

Variance Overview – This graph recapitulates the differences between the positional points and percentage ranks (highlighted in the previous two graphs) in both a subtractive (blue lines) and fractional (red lines) manner. In other words, it recaps the previous section.

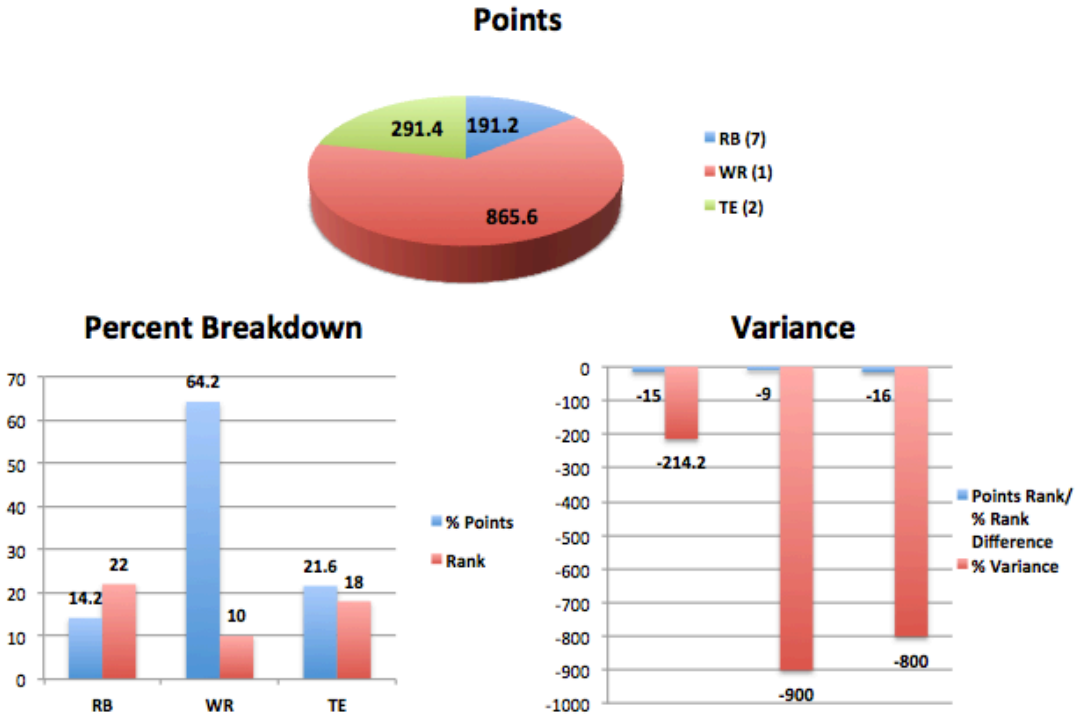
Continuing, based off these 2013 trends I'll attempt to highlight both the potential beneficiaries and casualties for the upcoming season. Finally, I'll conclude with any mitigating factors that could have influenced 2013 production, as well as skew any of the future likelihoods. These reviews will be done in a descending manner, starting with the league's most proficient passing offense and closing with the worst.

Denver, you're on the clock…

Denver Broncos

2013 Total Passing Points Rank: 1

Graphical Overview:



2013 Synopsis: Functioning as literally the best passing offense in NFL history, the **Peyton Manning**-led Broncos finished the year setting records for most total passing yards and touchdowns. This output saw the Denver offense provide the most potential passing points in the league to the wide receivers, the second-most to tight ends and the seventh most to their running backs. However, this was due more to sheer volume than positional bias, as the positional percentage ranks were significantly lower. While, once again these variances are at their highest with teams on either end of the spectrum, it goes to show that Denver performed in an aberrant manner as it related to expected production.

Potential 2014 Beneficiaries: **Montee Ball** already seems primed to break out in 2014, but based on the relative positional difference with the running back position he seems to be affected less than the receivers and tight ends. Again, regression across the board seems likely, but the ball carriers seem less prone to any type of statistical melancholy.

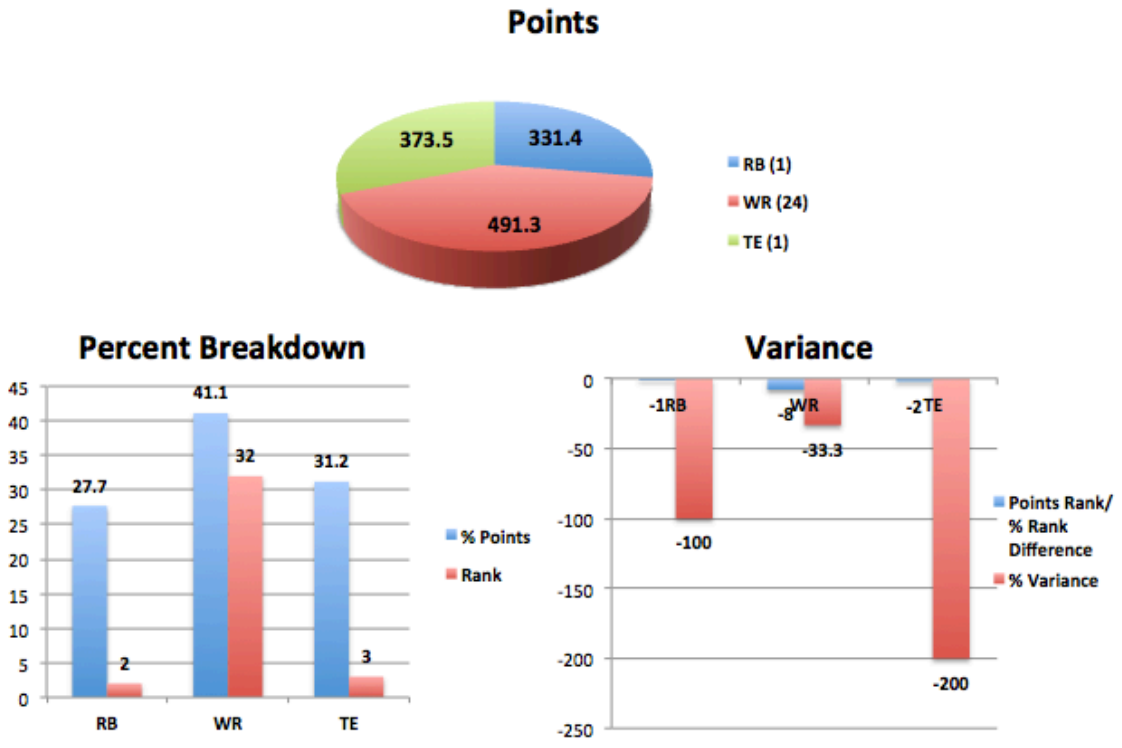
Potential 2014 Casualties: The receivers and tight ends seem more likely to regress. This should come as little surprise, as a whopping 52 of 55 touchdowns (94.5%) went to these positions. Again, it's all relative and should the Broncos continue their prolific ways no one will *truly* suffer – but with that said, statistical deterioration is more likely to present itself outside the running back position.

Mitigating Factors: Nothing really of note here. **Eric Decker** left, but **Emmanuel Sanders** was signed and **Cody Latimer** was drafted in the second round. Ball should step in fairly seamlessly for **Knowshon Moreno** and the coaching staff remains intact. The defense should be improved, as should the offensive line – this could lead to more rushing attempts, but my guess is the Denver coaches know where their bread is buttered.

New Orleans Saints

2013 Total Passing Points Rank: 2

Graphical Overview:



2013 Synopsis: Last year the Saints were every bit as unconventional as they were prolific. Though they fielded the second best offense in terms of total points available to pass catchers (trailing only Denver), this was largely due to the productivity of the team's running backs, along with superstar tight end **Jimmy Graham**. In fact, a mere 41.1% of the points went to the wide receivers, which was the lowest value in the league by a staggering 9.2%! The total scoring achieved by the ball carriers and tight ends was hardly a mirage, as the percentages to each position were good for second and third best in the league. The overly large negative percentages in the bottom right graph remain as more a punishment for the Saints' proficiency than anything else.

Potential 2014 Beneficiaries: At the risk of repeating myself, it's tough to discern anything from the percent variances above. Graham will obviously remain a huge part of the offense, and the running backs always seem to be involved.

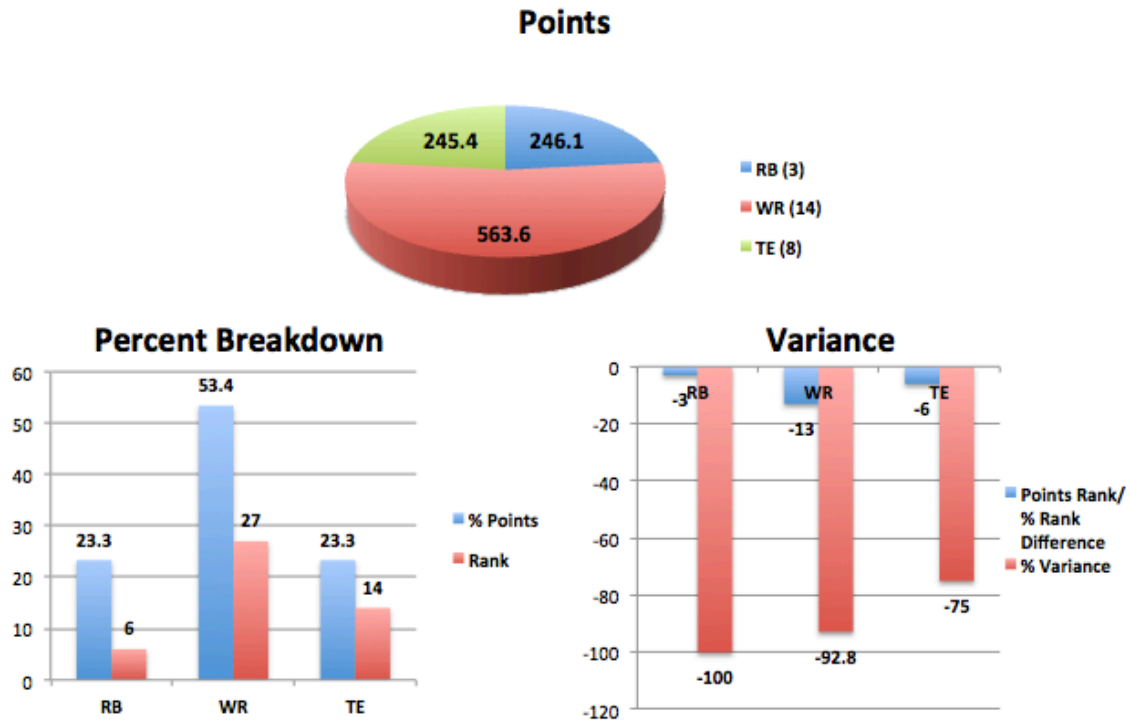
Potential 2014 Casualties: Is it possible that **Marques Colston's** reign of consistency could be drawing to a close? The receivers were a relatively small part of the 2013 offense, and **Kenny Stills** is likely improved. The first round selection of **Brandin Cooks** could further complicate matters, although it's rare for rookie receivers to be fantasy relevant. Note that I'm going away from the percent variance script here, but the total variance of -8 for the receivers easily trumps that of the running backs and tight ends.

Mitigating Factors: Gone is **Darren Sproles** and his 71 receptions, 604 yards and two receiving scores. This could possibly tilt the scales away from the ball carriers, leaving more statistical availability for the receivers.

Atlanta Falcons

2013 Total Passing Points Rank: 3

Graphical Overview:



2013 Synopsis: In a strange year that saw dual injuries to receivers **Roddy White** and **Julio Jones**, the latter of which was season ending, the Atlanta passing offense relied more upon their running backs and tight ends. Though it wasn't a New Orleans-esque discrepancy, the receivers only accrued 53.4% of the available points from passing, a value which placed them 27th in the league. Sheer volume led to the receiving corps accumulating the 14th most total points, although any kind of potential offensive regression stands to affect all three positions relatively equally.

Potential 2014 Beneficiaries: Again, with the percent variances all fairly close together it's tough to gauge who will benefit. With that said, you can put me in the camp that believes the returns of White and Jones will cause a fairly dramatic increase in points available to the receivers.

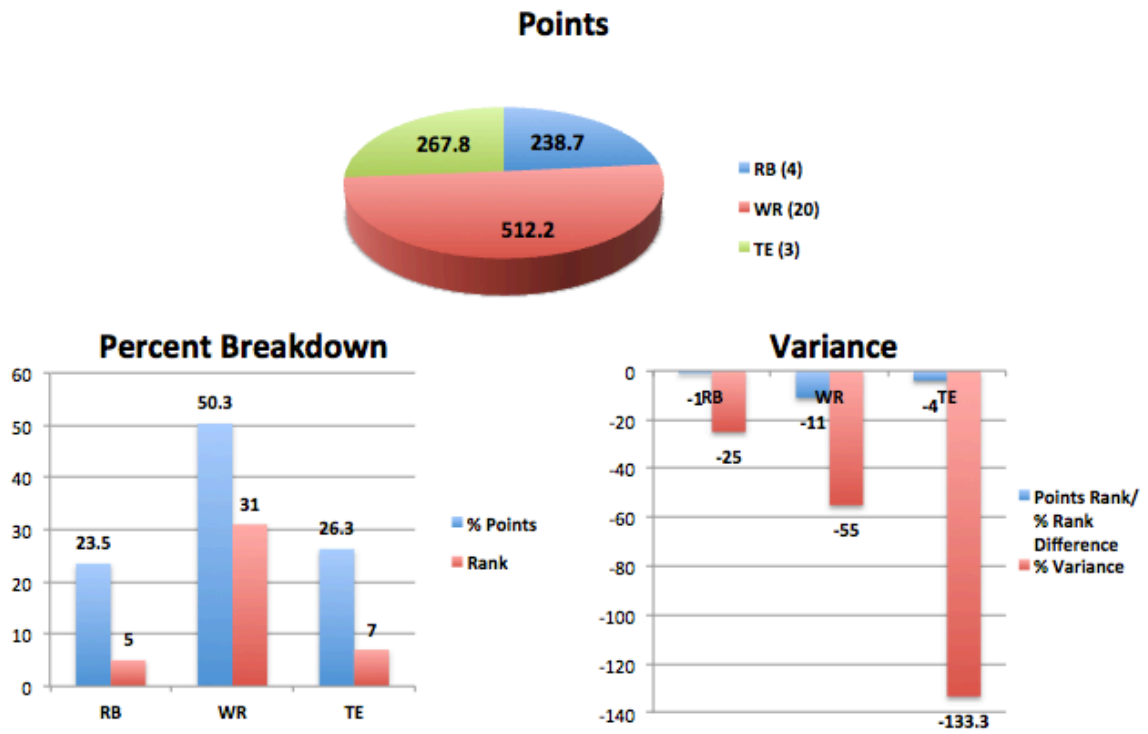
Potential 2014 Casualties: See the above. The running backs have the largest percent variance, although the total variance was a mere three slots. However, should the receivers claim a larger stake, it could be the backfield that suffers.

Mitigating Factors: The venerable **Tony Gonzalez** retired, leaving a gaping void at the tight end position. **Levine Toilolo** is next in line and will be asked to pick up some of the slack, but expecting him to repeat a future Hall of Famer's numbers is foolhardy. Should tight end production suffer, the receivers and running backs stand primed to benefit.

San Diego Chargers

2013 Total Passing Points Rank: 4

Graphical Overview:



2013 Synopsis: What a difference a year (and a new coaching staff) made for San Diego signal caller **Philip Rivers**. Gone were the days of the downfield passing attack, resulting instead in a horizontal offense run through the ball carriers and tight ends – these groupings finished fourth and third respectively in terms of total points, and fifth and seventh with regards to positional percentages. The receivers suffered the sharpest drop-off, although rising sophomore **Keenan Allen** was able to turn 105 targets into a finish as a PPR WR2. But be it due to depth issues or offensive design, no other Chargers receiver was remotely relevant for fantasy purposes.

Potential 2014 Beneficiaries: With the smallest variance in both a total and percentage standpoint, the running backs should do just fine even if the offense as a whole regresses. In particular, **Danny Woodhead** seems most likely to stage an encore to a breakout campaign which saw the diminutive former Patriot collect 76 receptions and six scores through the air.

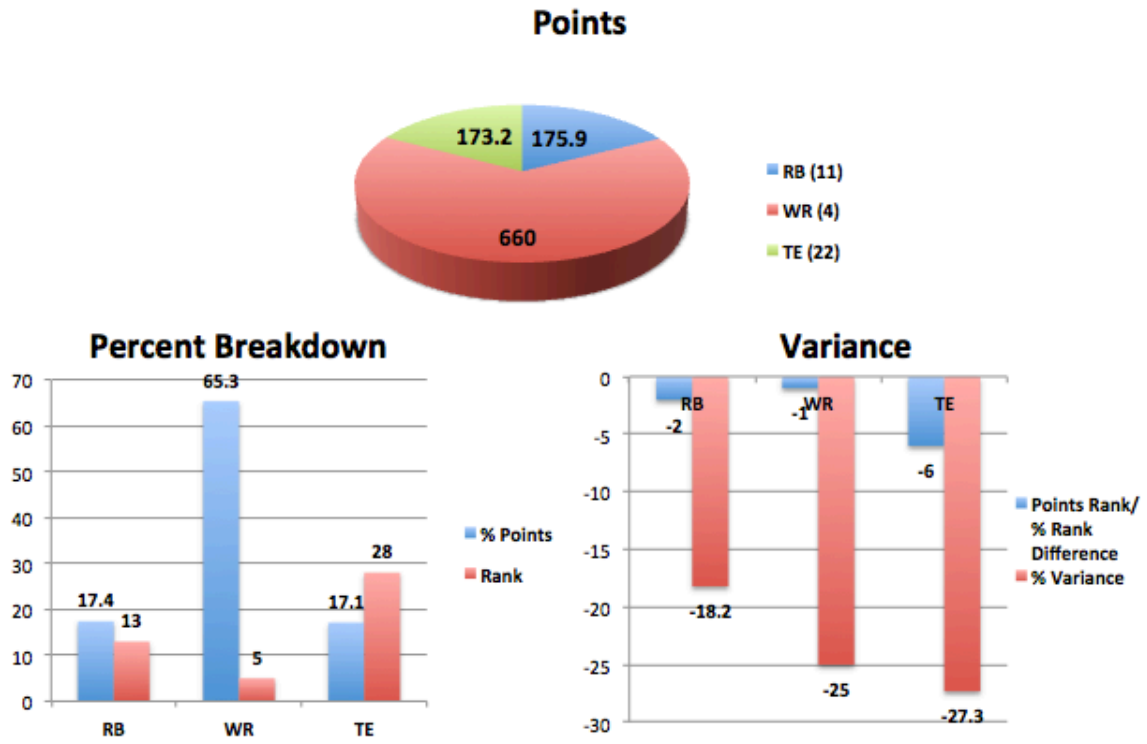
Potential 2014 Casualties: According to the total variance, the receivers could suffer if the offense loses steam. However, sticking with the percentages my money is on **Antonio Gates** dropping off, due both to a somewhat inflated market share as well as the emergence of **Ladarius Green**.

Mitigating Factors: Offensive coordinator Ken Whisenhunt left for Tennessee, although San Diego promoted from within with quarterbacks coach Frank Reich. Receiver **Malcom Floyd** is also returning from a scary, season-ending neck injury and stands to give the receiving corps a little more punch and field-stretching ability across from Allen.

Chicago Bears

2013 Total Passing Points Rank: 5

Graphical Overview:



2013 Synopsis: Another team, another coaching upgrade. Indeed, whether it was **Jay Cutler** or **Josh McCown** under center, quarterback whisperer Marc Trestman turned the Bears offense into an aerial juggernaut. The main recipients of this statistical upgrade were the receivers, as both **Brandon Marshall** and **Alshon Jeffery** finished as PPR WR1's. On the whole the receiving corps turned the fifth highest positional percentage into the fourth most points, accounting for 65.3% of the available passing points. The running backs, led my veteran **Matt Forte** earned a sizable chunk of the workload, finishing with the 11th most points at the position. Tight end **Martellus Bennett** finished as the PPR TE10, gobbling up nearly all the available points at the position, which went mainly ignored on a relative level.

Potential 2014 Beneficiaries: No position truly separated themselves in terms of variance, though the running backs and receivers had the smallest total drop-off between points and percentage rank. This bodes well for these two positional groupings.

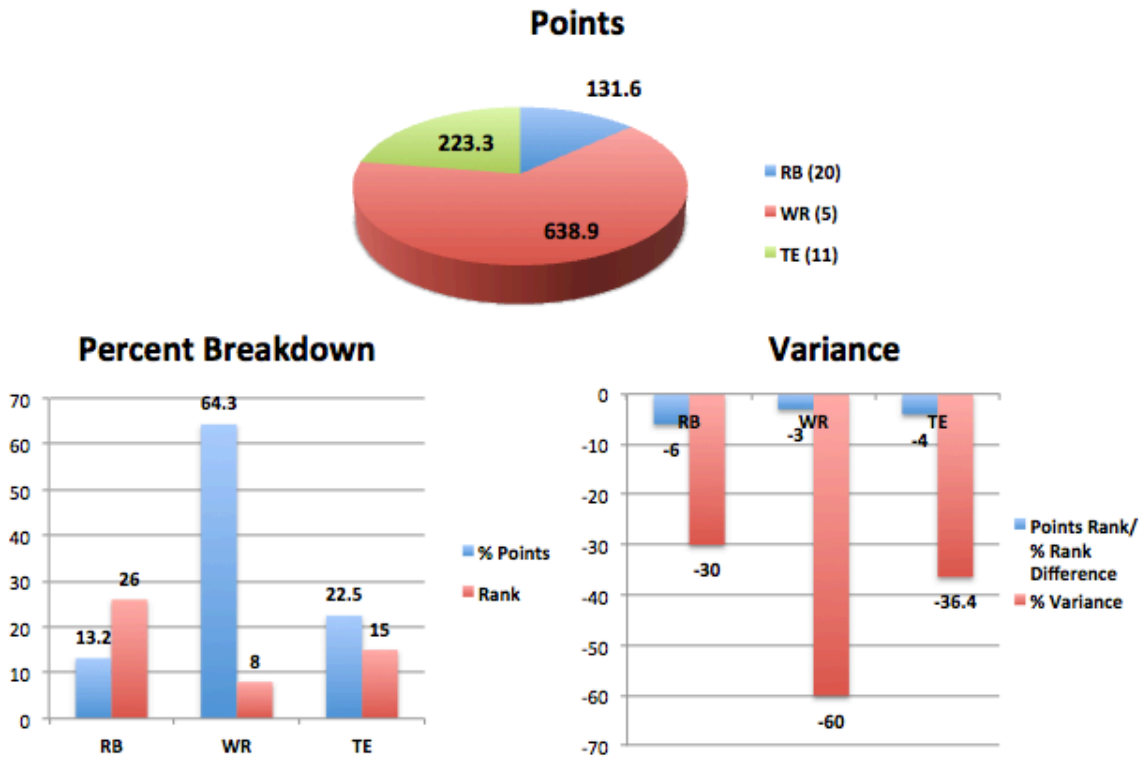
Potential 2014 Casualties: As mentioned above, Bennett received a startlingly high 98.7% of the tight end points. This statistic has regression written all over it, and the tight ends also showed the largest negative variance. Should the offense regress, this position could be hit hardest.

Mitigating Factors: The Bears offense remains largely unchanged, although it should be noted Bennett did his best work with Cutler under center, securing four of his five touchdowns during that stretch. **Marquess Wilson** stands to emerge as the new WR3 of the offense, ostensibly providing an upgrade over **Earl Bennett**. This could perhaps shift the positional bias even more in favor of the receivers.

Cincinnati Bengals

2013 Total Passing Points Rank: 6

Graphical Overview:



2013 Synopsis: Though the streamers and balloons were immediately cleaned up following a third straight first-round playoff exit, 2013 effectively served as quarterback **Andy Dalton's** coming out party. In finishing as fantasy's overall QB3, Dalton guided the Bengals to new statistical highs. A receiving corps featuring **AJ Green** finished with the fifth most points at the position, due in large part to a heavy positional bias (64.3% of points). The tight ends also represented an above average unit, although these numbers were spread fairly evenly between **Jermaine Gresham** and rookie **Tyler Eifert**. Rookie ball carrier **Gio Bernard** functioned well through the air, but on the whole the running backs were the redheaded stepchildren of the offense (pun intended).

Potential 2014 Beneficiaries: According to the variance the running backs and tight ends should be more immune to any kind of statistical regression than the wide receivers. This bodes well for Bernard, Gresham and Eifert. With that said, Green will likely always be the main focus in the passing game.

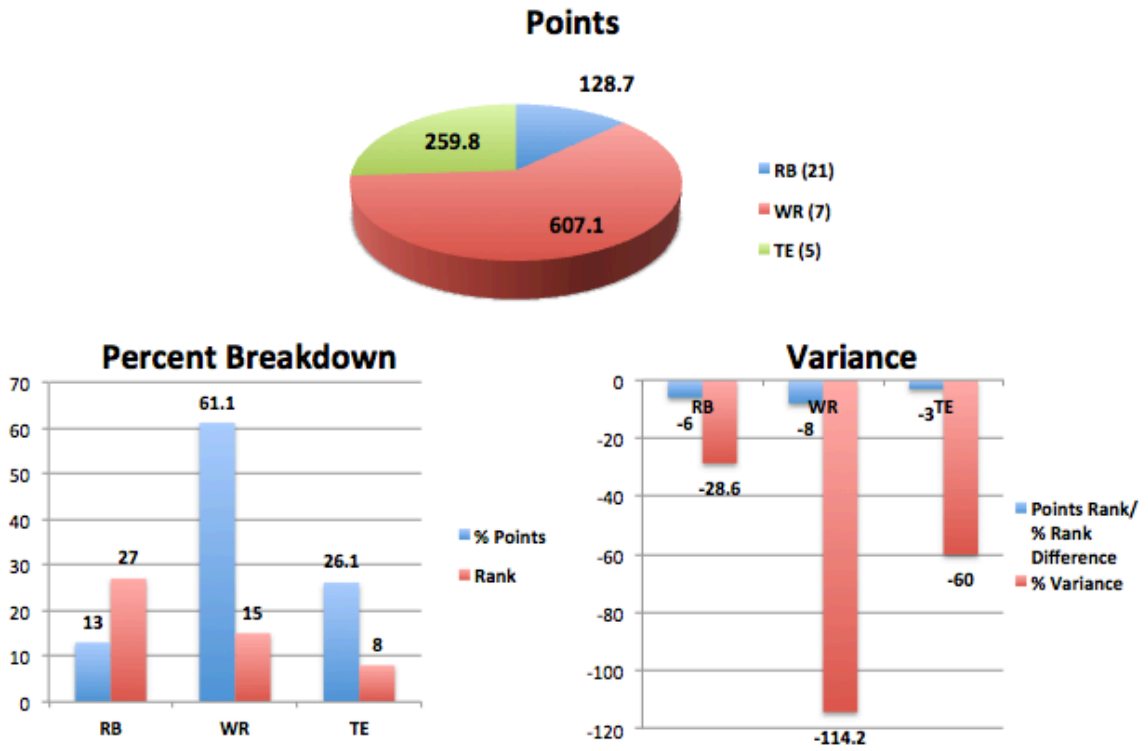
Potential 2014 Casualties: Though the receivers had the smallest total variance, according to the percentages they will be the ones feeling the heat. While I don't believe Green is in any kind of danger of not finishing amongst the league's elite, secondary options like **Marvin Jones** and **Mohammed Sanu** could be affected.

Mitigating Factors: Gone is the pass happy Jay Gruden, and taking his place is the more run-centric Hue Jackson. This could have a dramatic toll on the overall scope of the passing offense, and I'd be shocked if they finished sixth in total points at the conclusion of the 2014 season. As a reminder, Raiders running back **Darren McFadden** had his best years with Jackson at the helm, both on the ground and through the air – things are looking up for Bernard, who was already one of 2013's top rookies.

Dallas Cowboys

2013 Total Passing Points Rank: 7

Graphical Overview:



2013 Synopsis: Ever the league's punching bag, Dallas quarterback **Tony Romo** nevertheless once again provided a statistical feast for his skill position teammates. The bulk of the points were distributed to **Dez Bryant** and the wide receiving corps, although a case for regression can be made due to the variance in the points ranking (seventh) and positional percentage ranking (15th). **Jason Witten** had another TE1-caliber season, and on the whole the tight ends more than doubled the points of the running backs. Indeed, while both the receivers and tight ends were top-seven units according to total points, the running backs were much further back at #21, and even lower at #27 in terms of positional percentage. **DeMarco Murray** chipped in 53 receptions for 350 yards and a touchdown, but no other ball carrier surpassed eight grabs.

Potential 2014 Beneficiaries: Both the running backs and tight ends appear more immune to any type of regression. Though the starters are likely set, this opens up opportunities for role players such as **Lance Dunbar** and **Gavin Escobar**.

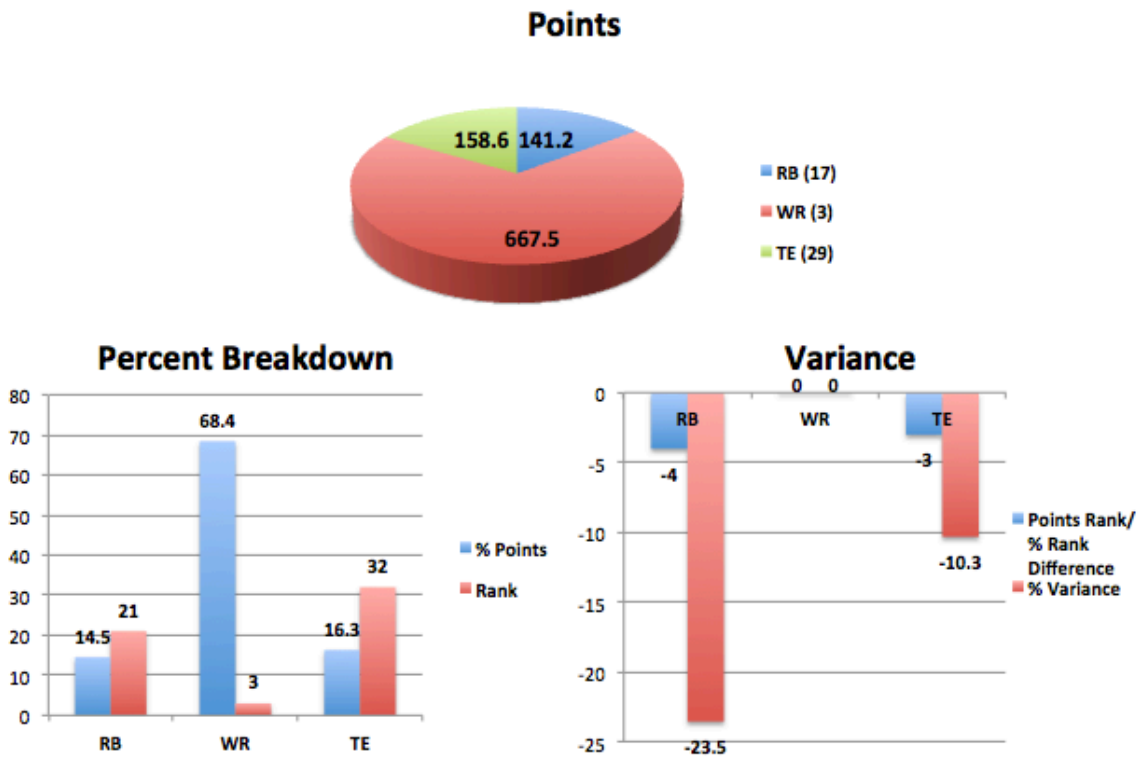
Potential 2014 Casualties: It's tough to argue that should the offense drop off, no position would be more affected than the receivers. With over a 100% variance, things could get ugly for this unit in a hurry. Bryant is a near lock to get his, a la **AJ Green** above, and as such it's likely running mate **Terrance Williams** could suffer.

Mitigating Factors: Former Detroit offensive coordinator Scott Linehan has stepped in as the passing game coordinator, and it's expected he'll continue his aerial ways. To wit, over his last three healthy seasons Detroit signal caller **Matt Stafford** had an average fantasy finish as the QB6.3 with a whopping 675 pass attempts per year. Over that same time Romo was the average QB9.7, but on a significantly lower 568 pass attempts per year. An increase in volume should lead to more total passing points, and given Linehan's use of the running back position it's fair to feel encouraged about Murray and Dunbar as well.

Pittsburgh Steelers

2013 Total Passing Points Rank: 8

Graphical Overview:



2013 Synopsis: Following a dismal 2012 quarterback **Ben Roethlisberger** bounced back last year, finishing as the overall QB8. In order to do so he relied heavily on his wide receivers, most notably overall WR3 **Antonio Brown**. Bolstering this point, despite finishing as "only" the eighth most prolific passing offense (by total points), the receivers secured the third most points at the position. This was no mirage, as the Steelers allocated 68.4% of their points there, also good for third in the league. The running backs and tight ends were largely bystanders, although **Le'Veon Bell** chipped in 45 receptions for 408 yards.

Potential 2014 Beneficiaries: What can Brown do for you? Many have jumped off the diminutive receiver's bandwagon, citing relatively baseless arguments as to why he won't be able to repeat his stellar 2013 performance. With that said, none of Brown's positional counterparts have any type of real productivity at the NFL level, and the receivers dominated the 2013 box score. **Markus Wheaton** could emerge, but my money is on Brown once again leading the way.

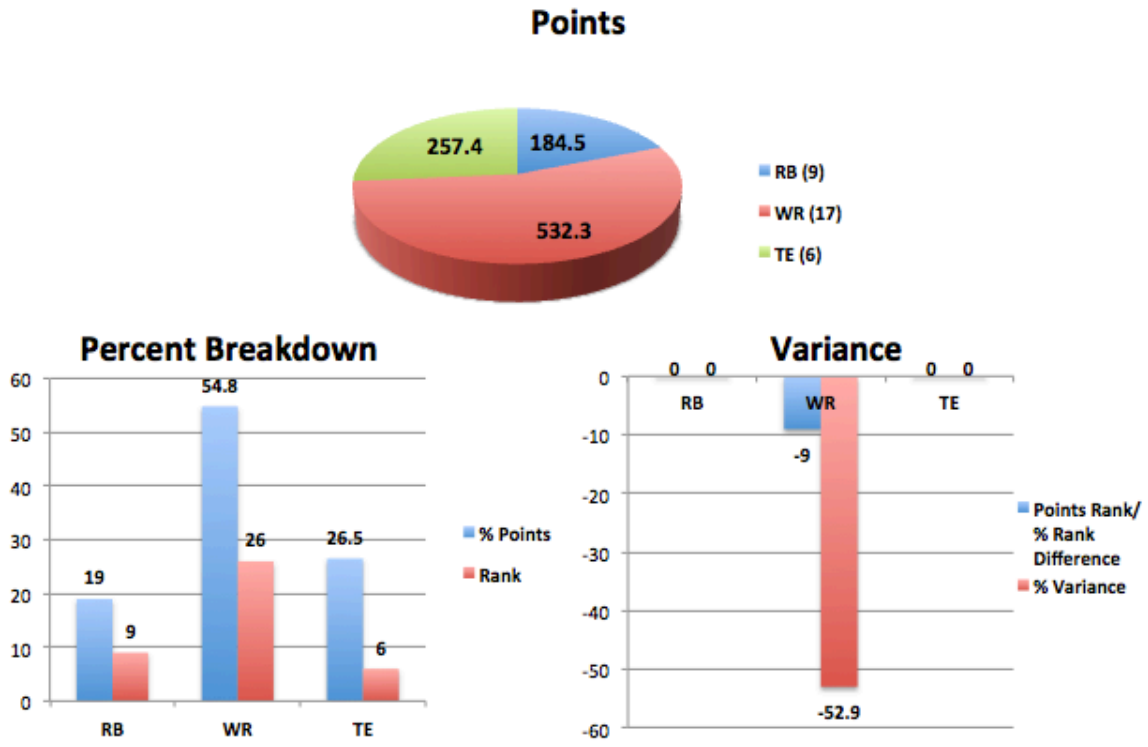
Potential 2014 Casualties: It's tough to worry about the tight ends, as they were already such a minimal part of the offense. Instead, based upon the largest variance it appears Bell and the running backs and stand to suffer should the offense regress.

Mitigating Factors: With the departures of **Emmanuel Sanders** and **Jerricho Cotchery**, the receiving corps as a whole could see a relative devaluation. A returning and theoretically healthy **Heath Miller** could carve out a bigger slice of the pie for the tight ends, as he has previously proven an ability to function as a PPR TE1.

Cleveland Browns

2013 Total Passing Points Rank: 9

Graphical Overview:



2013 Synopsis: Don't let the ranking fool you – the Browns were *not* a good offensive team in 2013. With that said, volume can often trump efficiency and Cleveland quarterbacks aired it out a league leading 681 times. On a relative level the biggest beneficiaries were the running backs and tight ends, who finished ranked ninth and sixth respectively on a total points basis, with positional percentages to match. While the ball carriers scored in more of a committee approach, 2013 breakout **Jordan Cameron** led an improved tight end corps. Sophomore **Josh Gordon's** individual brilliance carried the receivers, as he smoked the competition en route to a finish as the overall PPR WR1. His positional cohorts, however, were forgettable at best – as such, the receiving corps easily had the largest negative variance.

Potential 2014 Beneficiaries: Much like with **Antonio Brown** above, I see no reason to believe Cameron will slow down. The tight ends had both the highest points and percentage ranks with no variance at all – given the likelihood of Gordon's absence, Cameron should become the team's go-to guy in the passing game.

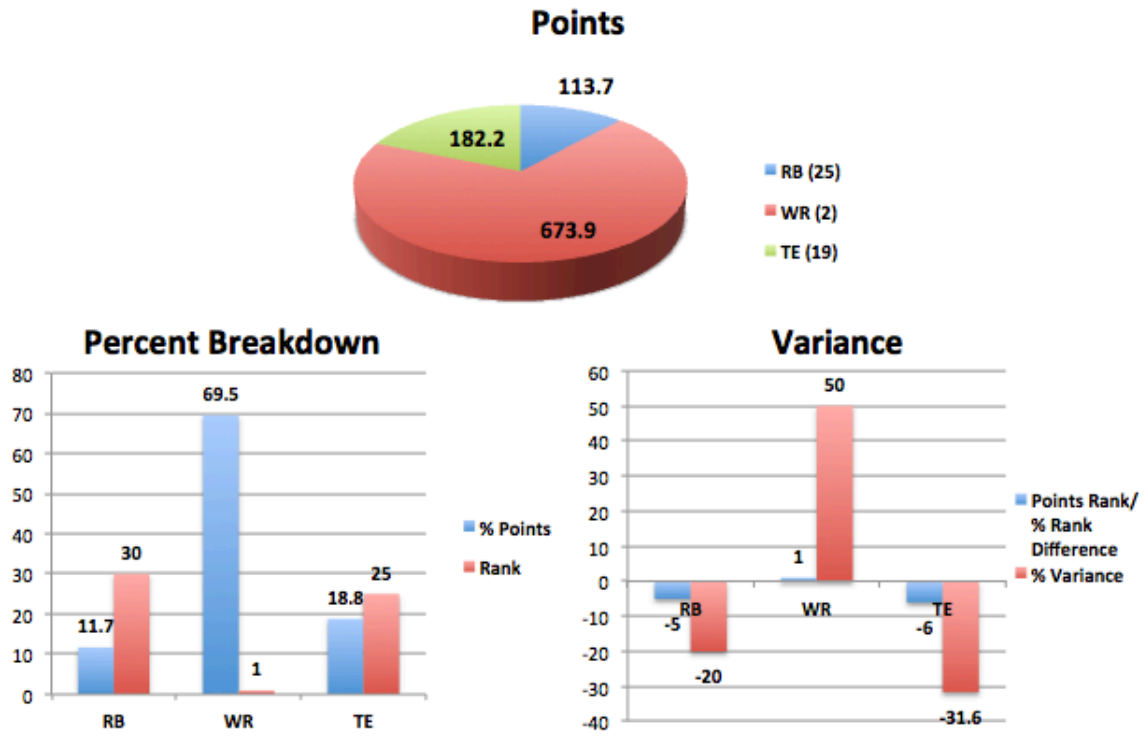
Potential 2014 Casualties: Already rocked by the looming Gordon suspension, it's hard to get excited about any of the wide receivers. The perpetually injured **Miles Austin** will be stretched (and likely subsequently torn) as the team's WR1 – I don't trust any part of this Cleveland receiving corps to achieve fantasy relevance in 2014.

Mitigating Factors: A decrease in volume should result in an expected regression, and it's also possible that a **Johnny Manziel**-led offense (if he's able to beat out nominal incumbent **Brian Hoyer**) will focus on sustaining a ground attack. The backfield has also seen total upheaval, with **Ben Tate** and **Terrance West** forming a one-two punch. Tate was laughably inefficient as a receiver in 2013, potentially leading to a reduction in favoritism for the ball carriers.

Green Bay Packers

2013 Total Passing Points Rank: 10

Graphical Overview:



2013 Synopsis: Even with the injury to star quarterback **Aaron Rodgers**, the Packers still functioned as a top-ten offense with regards to total passing points. The receiving corps did most of the heavy lifting, even despite a broken leg suffered by slot man **Randall Cobb**. **Jordy Nelson**, the 2013 PPR WR13, highlighted a collaborative effort that saw contributions from **James Jones** and **Jarrett Boykin** as well. Ultimately the receivers accumulated the second most points at the position while tying for the highest positional percentage of 69.5%. The running backs (25th in total points, 30th in percentage) and tight ends (19th in points, 25th in percentage) were chiefly ancillary bystanders.

Potential 2014 Beneficiaries: As can be seen above, the numbers support the qualitative analysis that the wide receivers are what makes the Green Bay offense go. With Rodgers' return to health I expect the trio of Nelson, Cobb and Boykin to all function as useful fantasy assets in 2014.

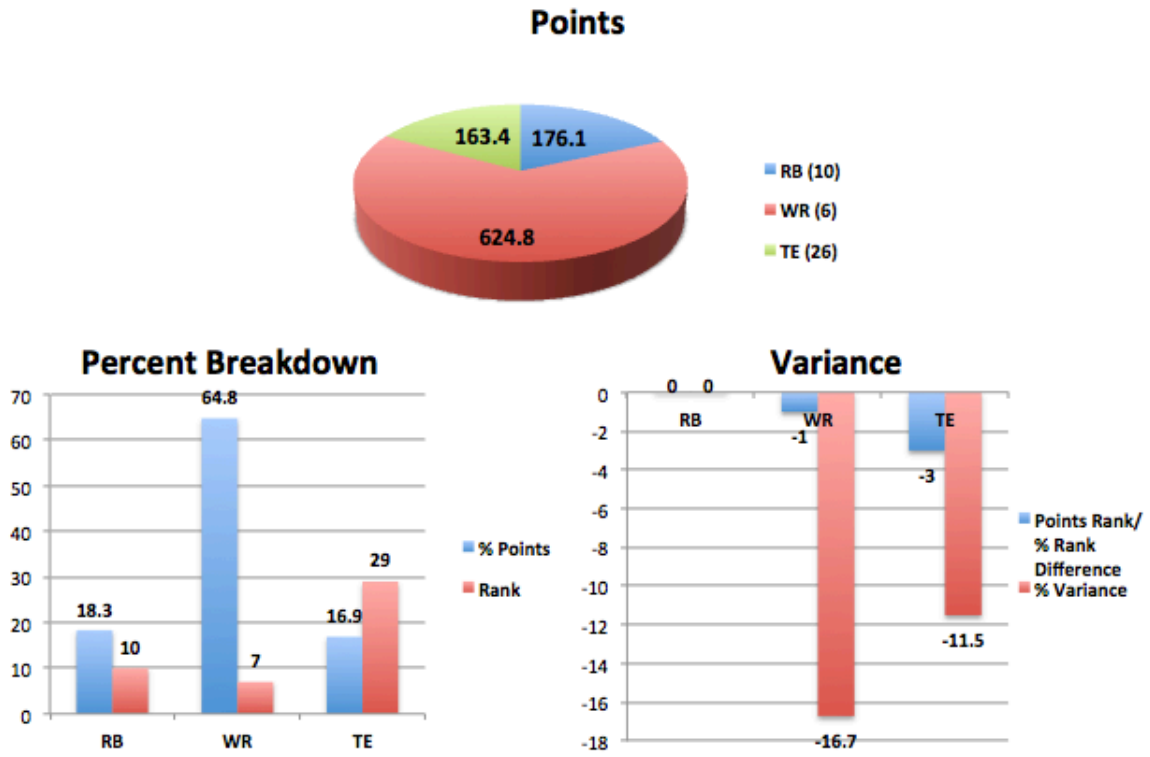
Potential 2014 Casualties: Already lacking any semblance of game-breaking ability, the tight end grouping appears to be stuck behind the eight ball as it relates to a 2014 outlook. There remains potential for a reunion with former Packer **Jermichael Finley**, but as currently constructed I don't expect any player from this unit to achieve fantasy viability.

Mitigating Factors: There's nothing really to see here. As I alluded to before, the absence of Finley (due to a season-ending neck injury) effectively signaled the demise of tight end production in 2013. With that said, when Cobb was hurt the transition to Boykin was significantly smoother, once again bolstering the argument for a positional bias. Jones left for Oakland, but rookie **Davante Adams** was drafted in the second round.

New England Patriots

2013 Total Passing Points Rank: 11

Graphical Overview:



2013 Synopsis: A 2013 finish as the overall QB14 marked **Tom Brady's** worst finish since 2006, excluding an injury-shortened 2008 season. As Brady goes so goes the offense, and as such it comes as little surprise to see the perpetual juggernaut Patriots checking in as "only" the 11th best passing offense. Continuing, due to a combination of injuries (**Shane Vereen**, **Danny Amendola** and **Rob Gronkowski**) and growing pains (**Aaron Dobson** and **Kenbrell Thompkins**), the only surefire fantasy starter for the entirety of the season was slot receiver **Julian Edelman**. This aligned with the larger trend of the bulk of the points going to the receivers (sixth overall), followed closely by the ball carriers (10th). Somewhat shockingly the tight end position finished as the lowly 26th ranked unit with regards to points scored, but anyone who followed the off-season news knows the causes of that (see the Mitigating Factors section below).

Potential 2014 Beneficiaries: As the only position to establish expected production, the zero-variance running backs seem likely to benefit in 2014. When healthy Vereen is the guy to own, and rookie **James White** could be sprinkled in as well.

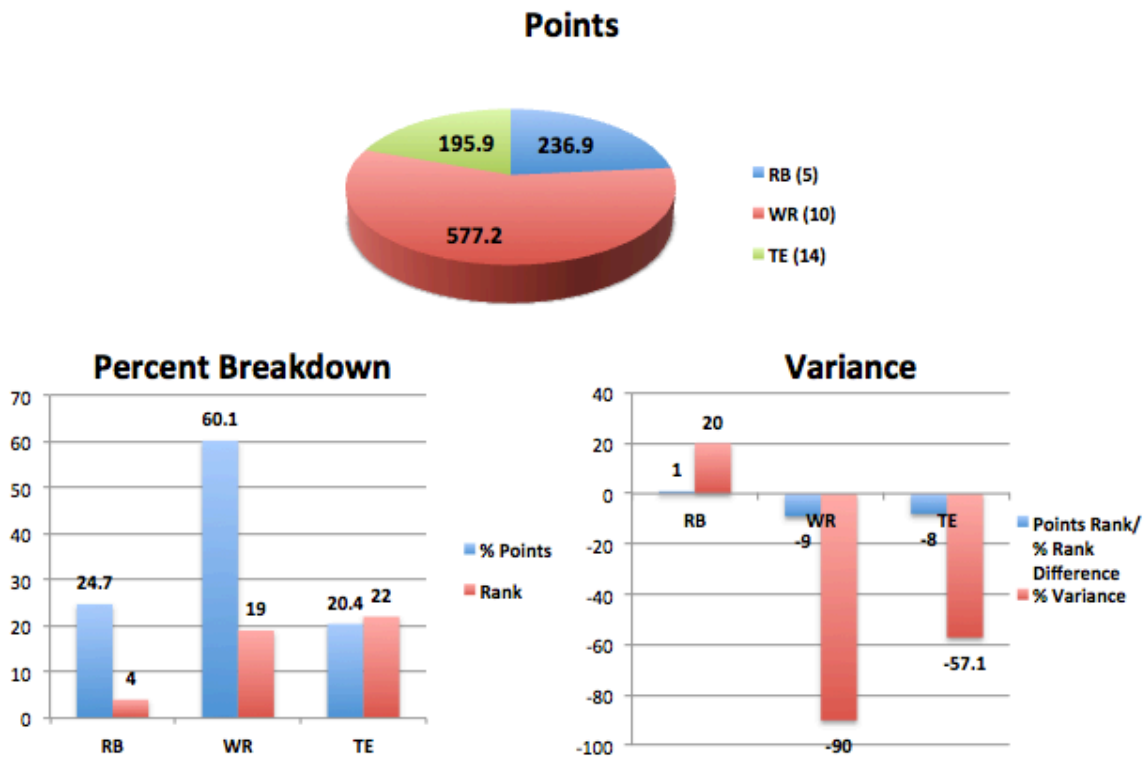
Potential 2014 Casualties: Going strictly by the variance it seems likely that the receiving corps will take a step back. Already murky due to a preponderance of talent in the depth chart, I'd be hesitant to rely upon any New England receiver as an elite asset in 2014.

Mitigating Factors: The top tight end in the game when healthy, Gronkowski missed nine games in 2014 (but amazingly still finished as the overall PPR TE19), and fellow tight end **Aaron Hernandez** left Foxboro to play in the Massachusetts Penal League. These losses decimated the tight end corps, leaving what was once considered the top positional grouping in the league a shell of their former selves. Coupling this with the eight games missed by Vereen and it's easy to believe in a 2014 ascension for these two positions.

Detroit Lions

2013 Total Passing Points Rank: 12

Graphical Overview:



2013 Synopsis: Signal caller **Matt Stafford** rebounded nicely following a volume-dependent 2012 campaign, finishing as the overall QB4. However, contrary to popular belief this feat wasn't achieved solely by virtue of throwing it up to the virtually un-coverable **Calvin Johnson** time after time. Megatron was his usual exemplary self, no doubt, and helped coerce the tenth most receiver points amongst all teams despite a positional percentage rank of 19. Where Stafford truly buttered his bread was in the screen game – ball carriers **Reggie Bush** and **Joique Bell** combined for a robust 107 receptions, 1,053 yards and three touchdowns through the air. This was good for the fifth most points amongst running back groupings, and the fourth highest percentage. Concluding, the tight ends brought up the rear, buoyed by rookie **Joseph Fauria's** ridiculous 38.9% touchdown rate.

Potential 2014 Beneficiaries: As the only grouping with a positive variance, it's easy to see Bell and Bush continue their dynamic work through the air. This position could be a gold mine for production once again in 2014.

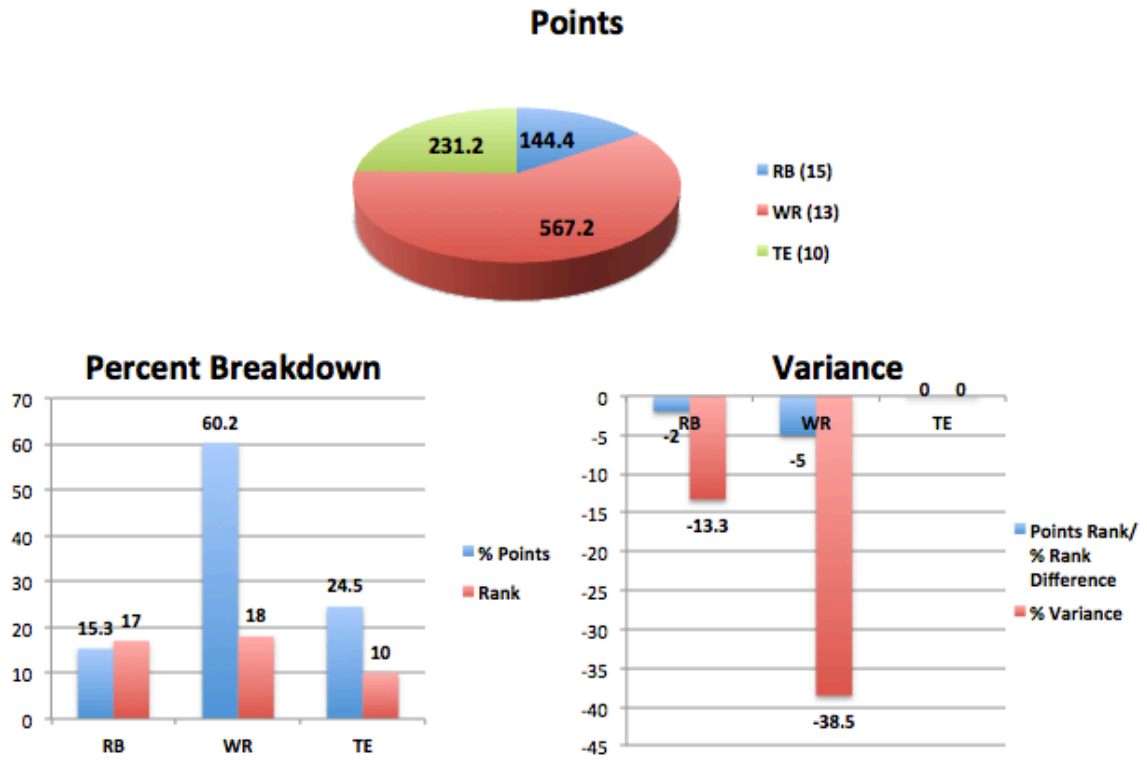
Potential 2014 Casualties: On a total variance level the receivers and tight ends were fairly similar, but sticking with the percentages I'd worry about off-season signee **Golden Tate**. Johnson is going to get his no matter what, and as mentioned above the running backs should be an integral part of the offense. It's entirely possible Tate will wind up as an over-drafted entity, offering more in real life than in fantasy.

Mitigating Factors: A new coaching staff headlined by Jim Caldwell and former New Orleans offensive guru Joe Lombardi was brought in, ostensibly as a mechanism to improve Stafford's mechanics and efficiency. This can only be viewed as good news for the offense as a whole. As mentioned earlier, Tate was signed as the WR2 and rookie tight end **Eric Ebron** was selected in the first round of the NFL Draft. This influx of talent could limit touches to the ball carriers, but based on Lombardi's tendencies in New Orleans it's not something I'd worry about.

Philadelphia Eagles

2013 Total Passing Points Rank: 13

Graphical Overview:



2013 Synopsis: A true "spread the wealth" offense in 2013, the Eagles only had one positional group ranked in the top ten in terms of both total points and positional percentage – the tight ends. In fact, apart from a massive effort from receiver **DeSean Jackson**, individual brilliance was hard to come by through the air as one of the league's top running games moved to the forefront of the offensive design. While this might not have yielded much in the way of fantasy box-score greatness, a positive byproduct is that very little variance was observed between the points and percentages. Given the relatively sparse passing volume, it's tough to imagine the totality of the passing offense getting worse, even if the efficiency dips.

Potential 2014 Beneficiaries: One of the 2014 off-season's "it" men, sophomore tight end **Zach Ertz** can add another notch to his belt here. Already primed to overtake the pedestrian **Brent Celek**, Ertz plays the only position that achieved expected production – if the offense *does* dip, the tight ends should be fine.

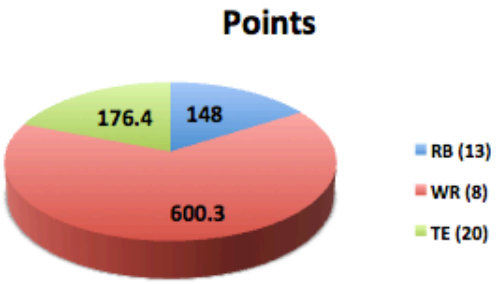
Potential 2014 Casualties: Given the overhaul of the position it's tough to single out the receivers here. With that said, the variance doesn't lie – Jackson was able to turn a meager 126 targets into a finish as the PPR WR12. If the efficiency of the offense slips, similar skill will need to be shown for this grouping to tread water.

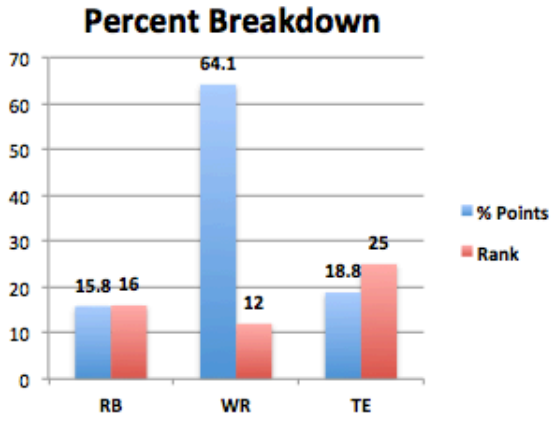
Mitigating Factors: Where should I begin? Jackson was released and signed by the rival Redskins, and taking his place is the amalgamation of the returning **Jeremy Maclin** and rookies **Jordan Matthews** and **Josh Huff**. Backup runner **Bryce Brown** was shipped off to Buffalo, and pass-catching scat-back **Darren Sproles** was brought in from New Orleans. This increases the number of mouths to feed, suggesting 2014 might not be the year to trust Eagles pass catchers – it appears likely the sum will be greater than the total parts.

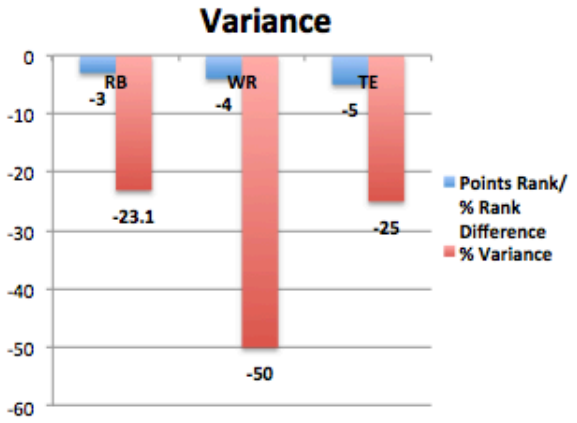
Arizona Cardinals

2013 Total Passing Points Rank: 14

Graphical Overview:







2013 Synopsis: The **Carson Palmer** revival tour, version 2.0, culminated in an above average passing game for the previously moribund Cardinals. This was largely powered by a duo of receivers, **Larry Fitzgerald** and **Michael Floyd**, who each finished as PPR WR2's. On the whole the receiving corps achieved the eighth highest total points on the 12th best positional percentage, easily playing above their expectations. The running back corps, led by my personal favorite **Andre Ellington**, also chipped in as the 13th highest scoring group amongst the ball carriers. The only fizzler of the group was the tight ends, who appear destined to fantasy mediocrity as long as head coach Bruce Arians remains in charge.

Potential 2014 Beneficiaries: While the receivers stand primed to propagate Arizona's aerial assault, it's Ellington and the running backs who showed the smallest variance. With the dynamic second-year man ready to assume the bulk of the duties, the ball carriers appear likely to receive the biggest positional bump.

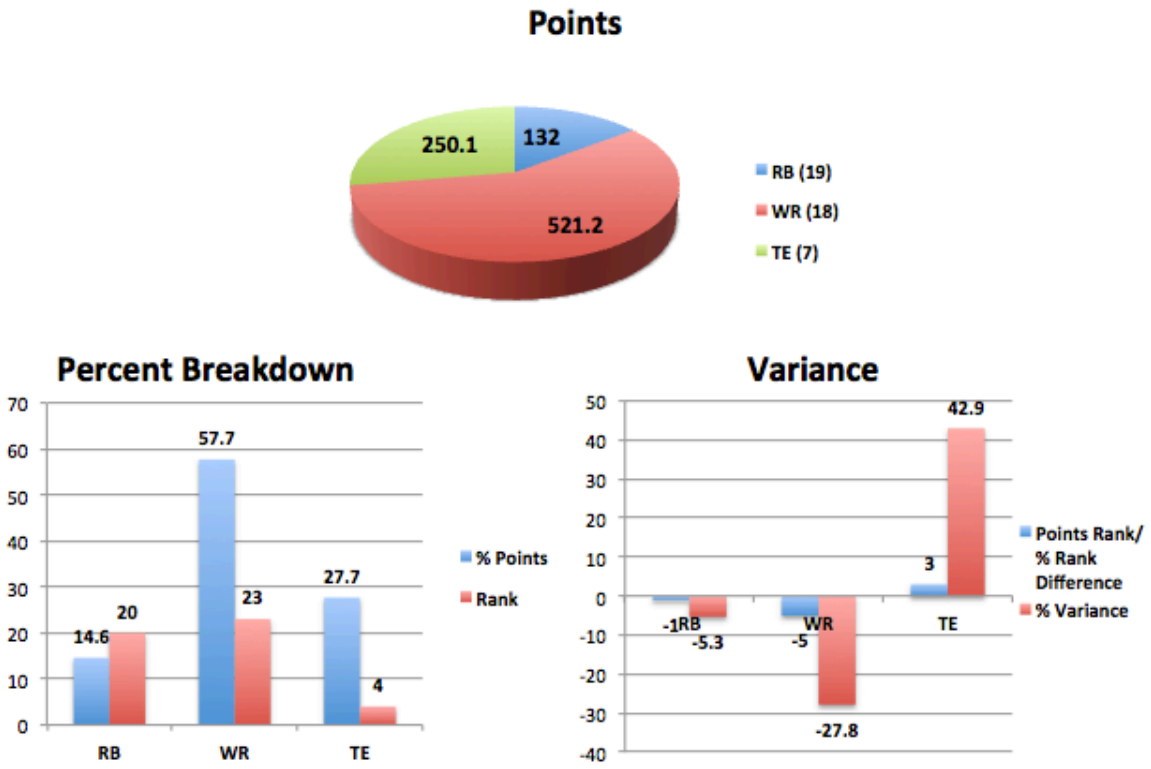
Potential 2014 Casualties: Given his grouping's relatively large negative variance, Fitzgerald seems likely to get squeezed out of fantasy value should the offense regress. Though it's fair to blame some of his poor play on injury, Fitz still scored a touchdown every 8.2 receptions, easily besting his prior career average of one touchdown per 9.9 grabs. Floyd is on an undeniable rise, and while there was enough to feed two mouths last year, things change in a hurry in the "Not For Long" league.

Mitigating Factors: Lead-footed running back **Rashard Mendenhall** retired, taking with him a non-descript average of 7.4 yards-per-catch. Tight end **Troy Niklas** was added in the draft, seemingly to provide an upgrade in blocking. The combination of these two events could perhaps funnel points away from the tight ends and to the running backs.

Houston Texans

2013 Total Passing Points Rank: 15

Graphical Overview:



2013 Synopsis: Believe it or not, the seemingly dysfunctional Houston offense was in the top half of the league in terms of total points from passing. They did so on the arms of **Matt Schaub** and **Case Keenum**, who combined for over 4,000 yards and 19 touchdowns, to go along with 20 interceptions. These stats were also predicated largely on volume, as Houston aired it out 633 times, good for sixth most in the league. On a relative positional level the tight ends were the main beneficiaries, although no one player separated himself due to injury. Receiver **Andre Johnson** also turned in a WR1-caliber performance, though the rest of the receiving corps contributed little. Following **Arian Foster's** injury, the running backs were essentially ignored.

Potential 2014 Beneficiaries: It's presumed the tight ends were going to get a bump (see the mitigating factors section below), but ironically they were *already* doing relatively well in 2013. With the only positive variance of the group, the crew of **Garrett Graham**, **CJ Fiedorowicz** and **Ryan Griffin** possess definitive upside.

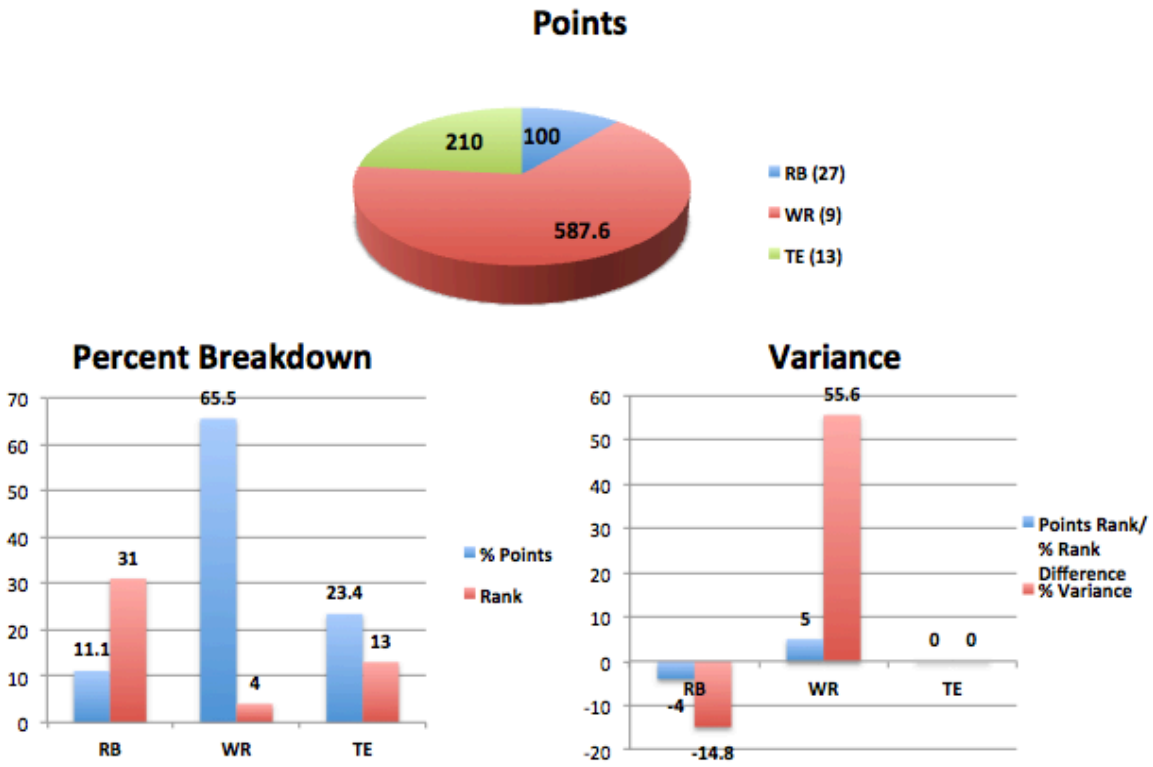
Potential 2014 Casualties: Given the large, negative variance of the position it's easy enough to view receiver **DeAndre Hopkins** as a casualty. Based on his track record the smart money is on Johnson repeating as a WR1 if and when he reports – if the tight ends receive their expected boost something is going to have to give.

Mitigating Factors: Former New England offensive coordinator and Penn State head coach Bill O'Brien has stepped in as the Gary Kubiak era finally came to a merciful end. O'Brien is known to favor a "horizontal" offense predicated around a shorter passing game and multiple tight end sets. To implement this he brought in **Ryan Fitzpatrick** at quarterback, as Schaub was shipped away to the Oakland Raiders. Foster also returns, theoretically healthy (though I have my well-documented reservations about that), with the only competition coming in the form of journeyman **Andre Brown** and rookie **Alfred Blue**.

Miami Dolphins

2013 Total Passing Points Rank: 16

Graphical Overview:



2013 Synopsis: It's entirely possible the 2013 Dolphins passing offense can be defined by a group of guys who didn't score you any points – the offensive line. Sacked 58 times (most in the league), quarterback **Ryan Tannehill** never really had a chance. With that said, when he was actually upright and able to pass it was generally to his receivers, who had the ninth most points at the position, to go along with the fourth highest positional percentage. Supplementing this grouping, tight end **Charles Clay** helped lead an improved tight end corps. Only the running backs failed to get in on the action, with a paltry 100 points coming to them through the air.

Potential 2014 Beneficiaries: Without a doubt the biggest off-season riser is receiver **Mike Wallace**. Woefully underutilized by the uncreative Mike Sherman, Wallace seems to be the best bet to take advantage of the large positive variance afforded to the receiving corps. If Tannehill's efficiency increases he could re-assume his role as a PPR WR1.

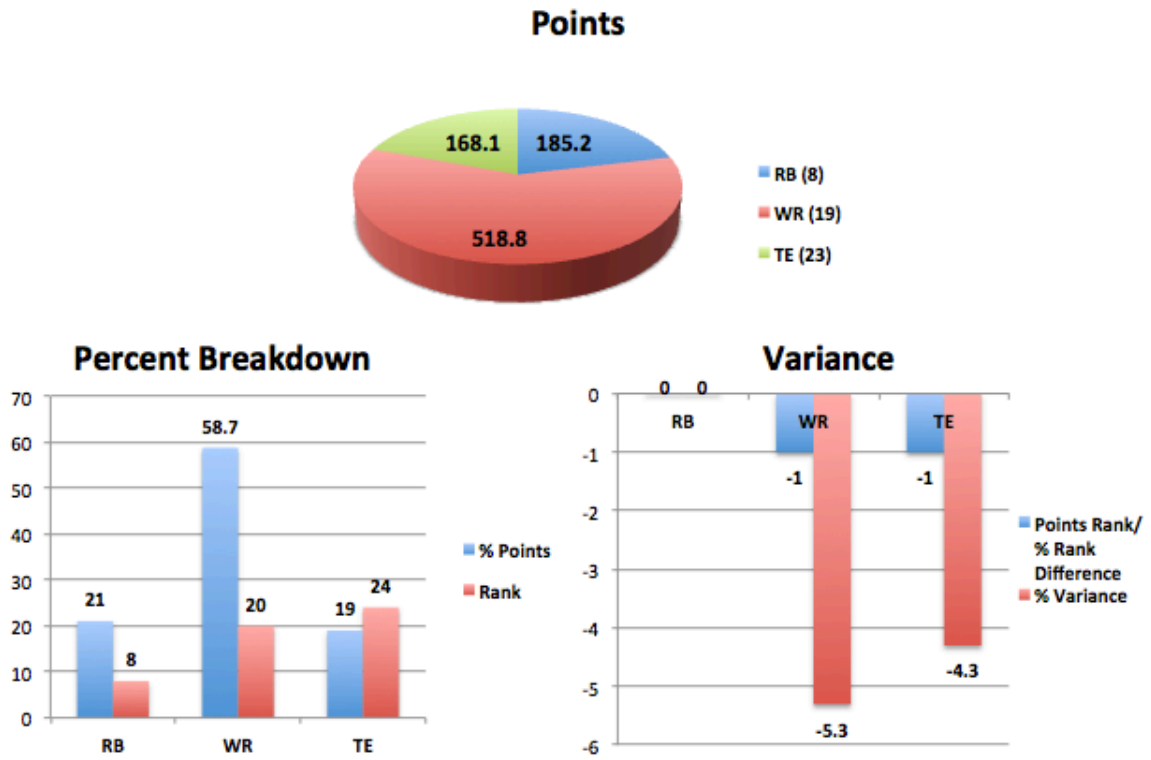
Potential 2014 Casualties: As the only position with a negative variance, it's tough to see any of the running backs contributing through the air. **Knowshon Moreno** is adept in the passing game, but recent surgery could curtail his involvement. With the second lowest positional percentage amongst all 32 teams, it's hard to get excited about this group.

Mitigating Factors: Sherman is out as offensive coordinator and former Philly quarterbacks coach Bill Lazor is in. This could lead to a shift towards Clay and the tight ends, although it's also notable former Eagles receiver **DeSean Jackson** achieved his greatest success under Lazor. Receiver **Jarvis Landry** was selected in the second round, perhaps showing a continued commitment to the position.

Indianapolis Colts

2013 Total Passing Points Rank: 17

Graphical Overview:



2013 Synopsis: "Average" was the name of the game for the Colts offense last year. Gone were the 627 attempts of quarterback **Andrew Luck's** rookie season, replaced by a higher percentage short-passing game and decreased volume. Though this can perhaps be explained by the injuries to receiver **Reggie Wayne** and tight end **Dwayne Allen**, coordinator Pep Hamilton's focus was clearly on getting a scuffling run game untracked. This resulted in lackluster numbers across the board, with the exception of a running back corps that scored the eighth most points at the position. With regards to variance, the Colts effectively quashed any sort of deviation.

Potential 2014 Beneficiaries: As mentioned in the previous paragraph there was no real variance amongst the three positions. However, sticking with the numbers and percentages, things look good for third-year running back **Trent Richardson**, who has previously proven a proficiency in the passing game. Should he falter again, both **Ahmad Bradshaw** and **Vick Ballard** remain on the roster.

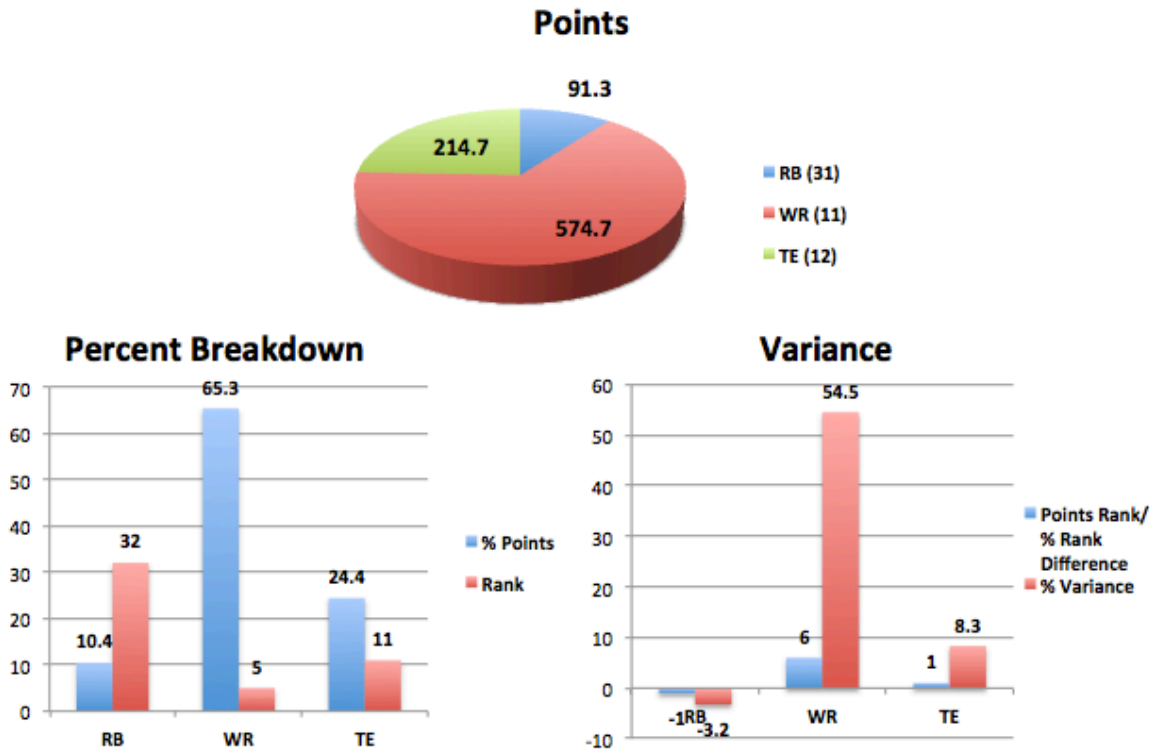
Potential 2014 Casualties: Again, it's tough differentiate between the three positions, as all effectively played to their expectations. With that said, given Hamilton's offensive designs, vertical threat **TY Hilton** could be in for a slight drop-off as Wayne and Allen return healthy.

Mitigating Factors: Tight end whisperer Rob Chudzinski was brought in as a special assistant to the head coach, although it's rumored he hasn't yet had much of an impact with regards to offensive design. Receiver **Hakeem Nicks** was brought in as a free agent and rookie receiver **Donte Moncrief** was selected in the third round of the draft. Pass-catching running back **Donald Brown** was also allowed to walk, potentially signifying a shift in offensive scope.

Washington Redskins

2013 Total Passing Points Rank: 18

Graphical Overview:



2013 Synopsis: Following a fantastic freshman campaign that ultimately resulted in a Rookie of the Year award, quarterback **Robert Griffin III** took a huge, injury-related step back in 2013. Clearly not healthy, RGIII's legs no longer scared the opposition, and a paper-thin defense resulted in significantly more passing. The main beneficiary was receiver **Pierre Garcon**, who turned a league leading 184 targets into a finish as the PPR WR11. When healthy, rookie tight end **Jordan Reed** was also a revelation, averaging 12.7 PPR points per game. Unfortunately, the positivity ended there – the running backs were functionally useless in the passing attack and no other pass-catcher warrants recognition.

Potential 2014 Beneficiaries: It's hard to argue against Garcon and the receiving corps here. Due to offensive inefficiency this positional grouping only had the 11th most points, but their positional percentage stood at a robust fifth overall, easily achieving the largest positive variance.

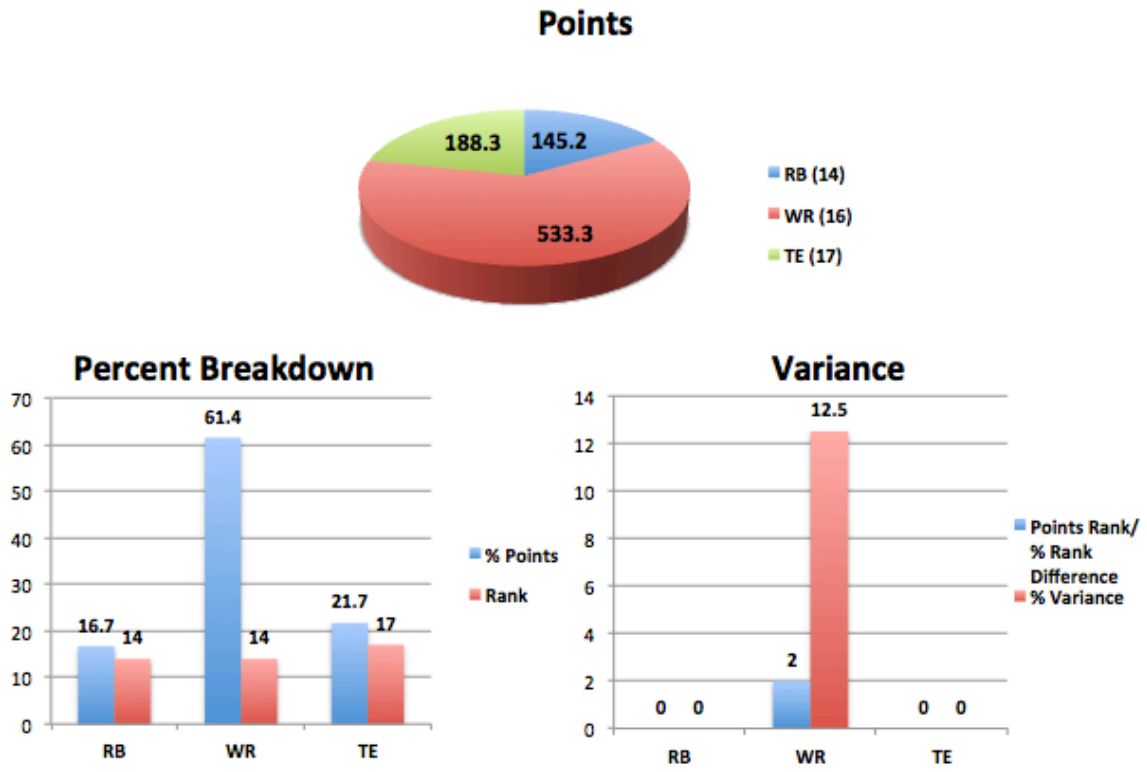
Potential 2014 Casualties: You wouldn't think it could get any worse for a run game that sputtered it's way to a lowly 91.3 receiving points (5.7 per game – 31st in the league), but it in fact can. Washington running backs ranked dead last in terms of positional percentage, as they were effectively phased out of the passing offense. Starter **Alfred Morris** works best as a two-down thumper, and it's tough to envision that changing in 2014.

Mitigating Factors: Gone is the "Shanaclan" and in steps new head coach and former Bengals offensive coordinator Jay Gruden. However, with the fifth most points to receivers (and eighth highest percentage), it's tough to see much of a change in offensive philosophy. Adding to that the signing of receiver **DeSean Jackson** and it appears 2014 will once against turn into the wide receiver show.

Baltimore Ravens

2013 Total Passing Points Rank: 19

Graphical Overview:



2013 Synopsis: Mirroring its quarterback, the 2013 Baltimore offense could be described, in a word, as *vanilla*. Across the board each positional grouping finished in the middle of the pack as it related to both total points and positional percentages, with no variance whatsoever shown for the running backs and tight ends. Outside of receiver **Torrey Smith**, fantasy options were hard to come by in the Ravens' aerial attack. Running back **Ray Rice** slogged his way to the worst numbers of his career, and tight end **Dennis Pitta** missed the first three-quarters of the season due to a hip injury. Relying on players such as washed-up tight end **Dallas Clark** and rookie receiver **Marlon Brown** clearly wasn't a recipe for success.

Potential 2014 Beneficiaries: As mentioned previously, the only variance amongst the positional groupings occurred with the receivers, who should have performed slightly better than they did. This bodes well for Smith, who tallied the first 1,000-yard season of his career in 2013. If he improves on his scoring, he could very well break out in 2014.

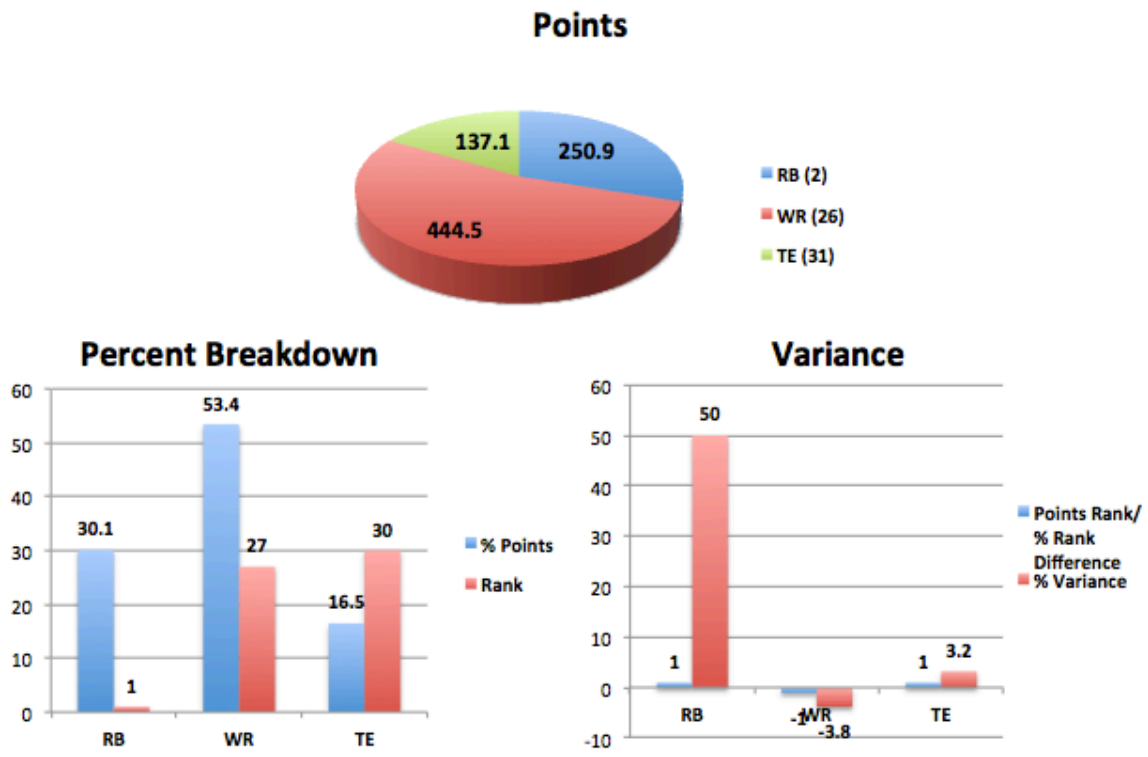
Potential 2014 Casualties: According to the numbers we're splitting hairs between the tight ends and running backs. With that said, the return of Pitta coupled with the potential suspension of Rice leads me to believe it's the ball carriers who could wind up suffering.

Mitigating Factors: As mentioned, top tight end Pitta returns and is poised to post career numbers under new offensive coordinator and tight end whisperer Gary Kubiak. **Owen Daniels** was also added via free agency, and should provide an upgrade over departed TE2 **Ed Dickson**. Veteran receiver **Steve Smith** was also added to the mix, and he should immediately pick up WR2 duties over the now sophomore Brown.

Kansas City Chiefs

2013 Total Passing Points Rank: 20

Graphical Overview:



2013 Synopsis: With the additions of head coach Andy Reid and quarterback **Alex Smith**, the Chiefs vastly improved upon their 2012 campaign. Though Smith did little to fill the stat-book, he served well in his role as "Captain Check-down," providing the second most points in the league to the Kansas City running backs, along with the highest positional percentage. Unfortunately, those positive vibes didn't extend to the other positions, as **Dwayne Bowe** spearheaded a largely inactive receiving corps and the tight ends provided little of note. Respectively, these two positional groups had the 26th and 31st most points in the league, to go with the 27th and 30th highest positional percentages.

Potential 2014 Beneficiaries: Amazingly enough the running back corps, led by an elite option in **Jamaal Charles**, actually has room to improve. After turning in career highs in receptions (70), receiving yards (693) and receiving touchdowns (seven), it wouldn't seem possible for any sort of statistical enhancement – with that said, given the +50% variance it appears the ball carriers should continue to dominate.

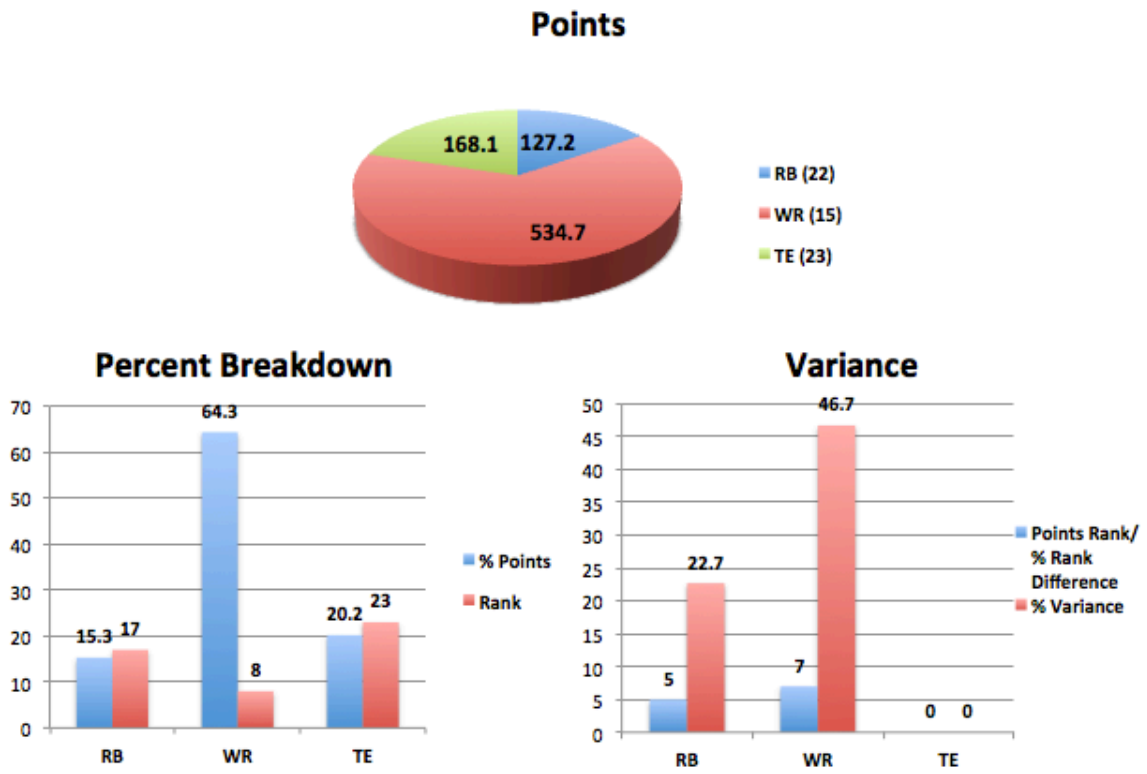
Potential 2014 Casualties: We're once again splitting hairs between two positional groupings, this time the receivers and the tight ends. However, even if the difference is small, the numbers dictate the receivers could be in for a slight drop-off in production should the offense falter. While Bowe should remain as the top option at the position, it's tough to see any type of output from the secondary options.

Mitigating Factors: After missing his rookie season due to microfracture surgery, second year tight end **Travis Kelce** returns to wage battle with minicamp upstart and physical freak **Demetrius Harris**. **Dexter McCluster** left in free agency for the Titans, ostensibly replaced by rookie Swiss-army knife **De'Anthony Thomas**. Remarkable as it seems, this could siphon away even more production away from the receivers and to the ball carriers.

Tennessee Titans

2013 Total Passing Points Rank: 21

Graphical Overview:



2013 Synopsis: After starter **Jake Locker** succumbed to an injury yet again, journeyman **Ryan Fitzpatrick** took over the reigns of the underwhelming Tennessee offense. This resulted in below-average numbers for the running backs and tight ends, while the receivers stood as the lone average grouping. The latter occurred largely on the back of second-year man **Kendall Wright**, who improved his numbers across the board with the exception of touchdowns. Tight end **Delanie Walker** was another bright spot, finishing as the overall PPR TE11 – with that said, the rest of that positional grouping only scored 15 PPR points. The running backs, led by **Chris Johnson**, also presented ordinary production.

Potential 2014 Beneficiaries: Already the top positional grouping of 2013, the wide receivers stand as the primary beneficiaries should the offense improve. With the largest positive variance stemming from the eighth best positional percentage, Wright and cohort **Justin Hunter** could be in store for a bigger 2014.

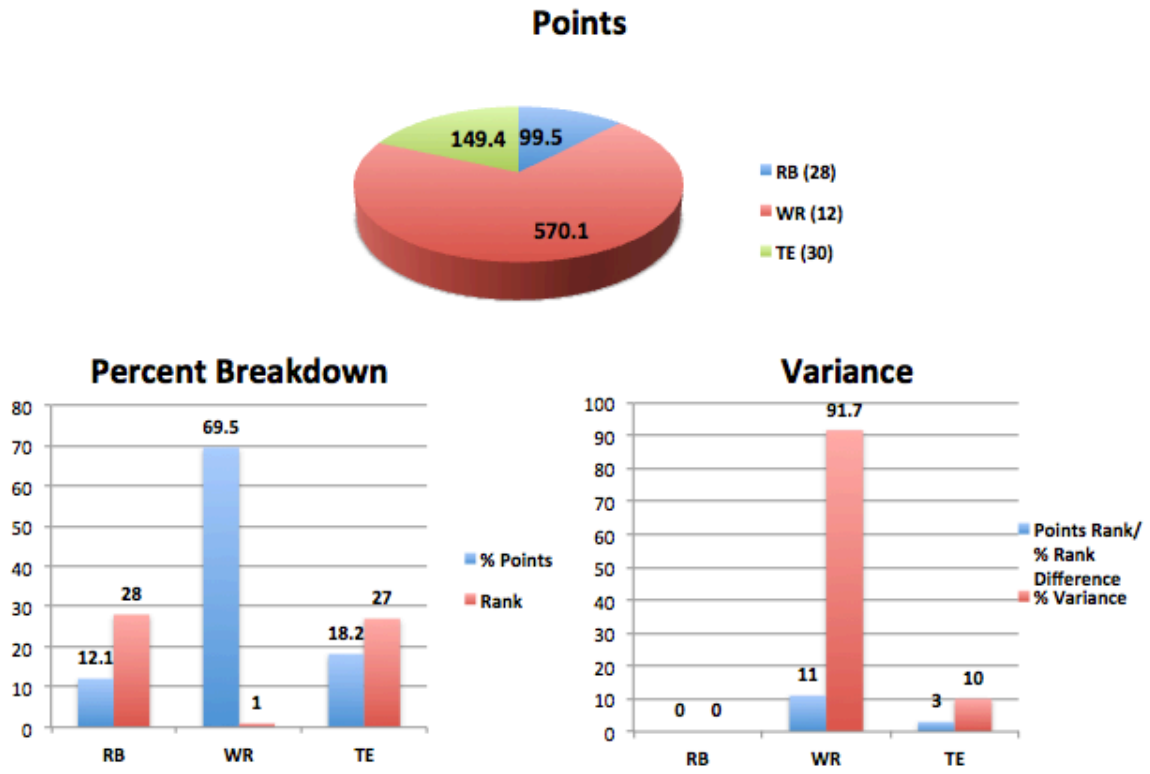
Potential 2014 Casualties: It would be disingenuous to call any of the groupings "casualties," as there wasn't a single negative variance. However, the tight ends already achieved their expected production last year, so expecting a breakout based off the 2013 trends seems implausible.

Mitigating Factors: Gone is Johnson, a reasonable receiver out of the backfield, and in his place is rookie **Bishop Sankey**. Given Sankey's collegiate stats, I'd be hesitant to expect a dip in running back receiving production. The bigger change is the arrival of former Chargers offensive coordinator Ken Whisenhunt as the new head coach. As shown earlier Whisenhunt's 2013 San Diego offense was biased *in favor of* the tight ends and running backs, which could change the Titans' scope. With the strength of Tennessee's passing offense clearly residing in the receiving corps, it will be interesting to see what gives, if anything.

New York Giants

2013 Total Passing Points Rank: 22

Graphical Overview:



2013 Synopsis: A dysfunctional Giants offense saw quarterback **Eli Manning** compile arguably the worst statistics of his career, excluding his 2004 rookie season. Indeed, Manning turned in only the second negative touchdown/interception differential of his career, as well as his fourth worst completion percentage ever and lowest yardage total since 2008. This trickle-down effect yielded only one viable fantasy starter in receiver **Victor Cruz**, with cohorts **Hakeem Nicks** and **Rueben Randle** on the periphery. With that said, despite Manning's performance he targeted his receiving corps a league-high 69.5% of the time, resulting in a finish as the only above average positional grouping. The ball carriers and tight ends were negligible.

Potential 2014 Beneficiaries: It's impossible to argue against the receivers here. Their +91.7% variance was tops amongst *every positional unit studied*, and if the offense picks up this could yield multiple producers. Cruz seems a lock, and Randle and first-round pick **Odell Beckham Jr.** could pay dividends as well.

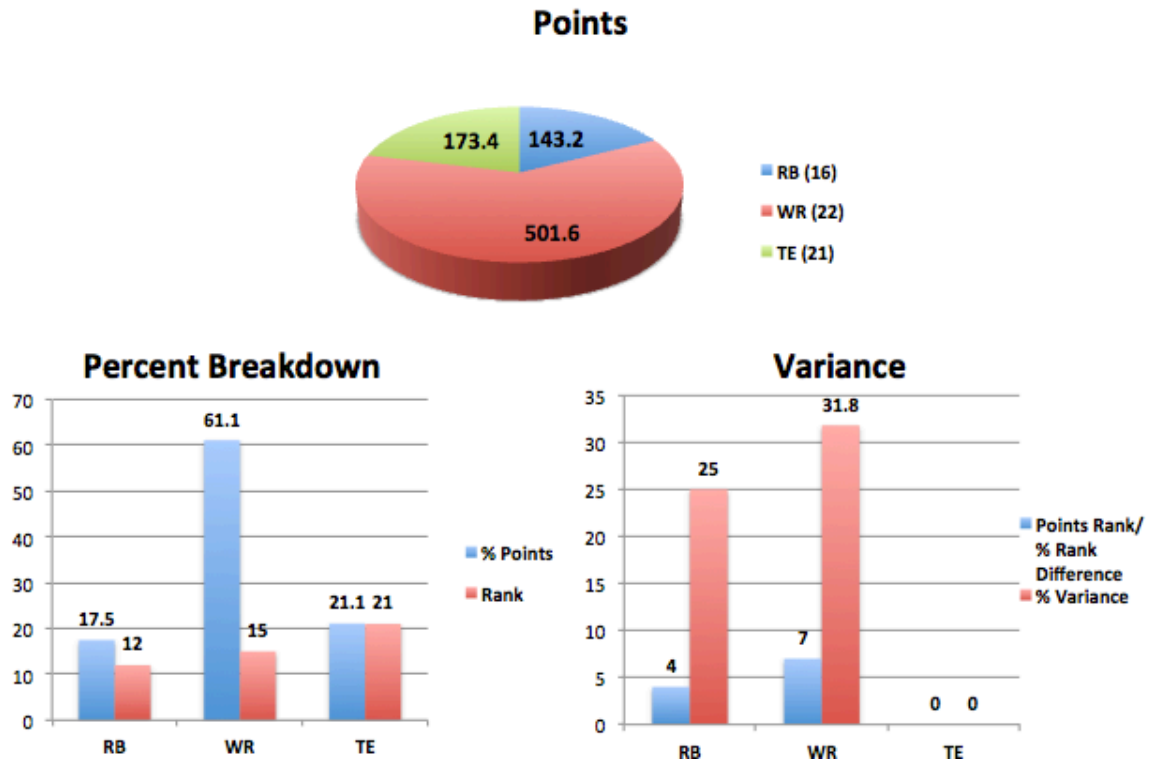
Potential 2014 Casualties: Now that we're getting to the below-average passing offenses, a noticeable trend is beginning to emerge – a lack of negative variances. As I mentioned in the previous section, good offenses were going to be unfairly "punished" by this metric, while poor offenses would be expected to do better. As such I'll judge the potential casualties by the lowest positive variance, which in this case correlates to the running backs. Having already achieved expected production in 2013, the numbers suggest no improvement should be predicted.

Mitigating Factors: **Rashad Jennings** was brought on board to serve as the lead ball carrier, and he brings with him three-down ability, as well as the potential to improve upon **Andre Brown's** 2.5 receptions per game in 2013. As mentioned previously Beckham was selected in the first round, while **Hakeem Nicks** signed with the Colts. **Ben McAdoo**, the former Packers quarterbacks coach, was brought in as the team's new offensive coordinator – given that the Packers tied the Giants with 69.5% of the team's points going to the receivers, I wouldn't expect any sort of massive philosophical shift.

Jacksonville Jaguars

2013 Total Passing Points Rank: 23

Graphical Overview:



2013 Synopsis: Following the conclusion of the failed **Blaine Gabbert** experiment, **Chad Henne** stepped in to deliver reasonable production for the Jags. The running backs were the primary beneficiaries on a relative level, finishing with league-average numbers based upon the 12th highest positional percentage. Veteran **Maurice Jones-Drew** was the main protagonist here, collecting 74.5 points through the air, good for 52.0% of the receiving points to the ball carriers. The only other viable entity was receiver **Cecil Shorts III**, who despite missing three games still finished as the PPR WR38. As we all know by now, fellow receiver **Justin Blackmon** flamed out, missing the first four games of the season before accruing WR1-level stats for the next four, then ultimately being suspended again, indefinitely.

Potential 2014 Beneficiaries: With the receiving corps a barren wasteland behind Shorts (and Blackmon's quarter-season), it's no shock they couldn't make good on the 15th highest positional percentage. However, with Shorts healthy and second round receivers **Allen Robinson** and **Marqise Lee** aboard, that could change in 2014.

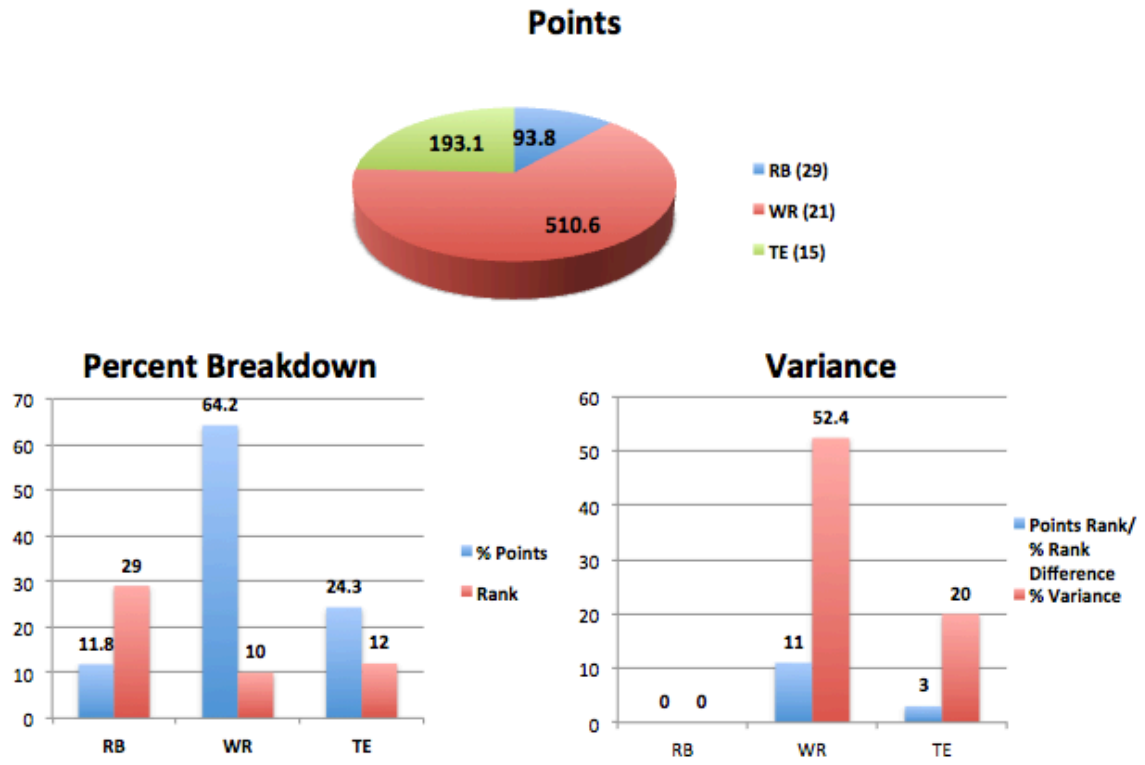
Potential 2014 Casualties: With the tight end corps achieving expected production, it's tough to see **Marcedes Lewis** ever coming close to replicating his 2010 glory. If he does, it would take a huge paradigm shift for it to happen.

Mitigating Factors: As mentioned previously the receiving corps has undergone a massive overhaul, with the departure of Blackmon and addition of twin second round receivers Lee and Robinson. Also gone is MJD, replaced by former Vikings backup **Toby Gerhart**. Having functioned primarily as a third-down back behind the all-world **Adrian Peterson**, it's unknown how Gerhart will fare in a full time role – however, we know he can catch the ball. Quarterback **Blake Bortles** was selected in the first round of the draft, but it's expected he'll sit behind Henne for the majority, if not all of the season.

Minnesota Vikings

2013 Total Passing Points Rank: 24

Graphical Overview:



2013 Synopsis: Excusing a mind-boggling **Josh Freeman** interlude, the Vikings played about as well as expected considering they were tied for 20th in the league in passing attempts. Relative to their individual positions, however, the tight ends were the only above average grouping, finishing with the 15th most points on the 12th highest positional percentage. The receivers, led by **Greg Jennings** and a late-season run by rookie **Cordarrelle Patterson**, performed in a below-average manner, although they received the 10th highest positional percentage. The running back corps represented a group of also-rans, highlighted by star **Adrian Peterson's** meager 29 receptions.

Potential 2014 Beneficiaries: As I alluded to in the synopsis, the receivers performed well under their expectations given the 10th highest positional percentage. In fact, their +52.4% deviation was good for the fourth highest amongst all the league's wide receiving corps, and an improved offense should lead to better production. In all likelihood the primary beneficiaries will be Jennings and Patterson.

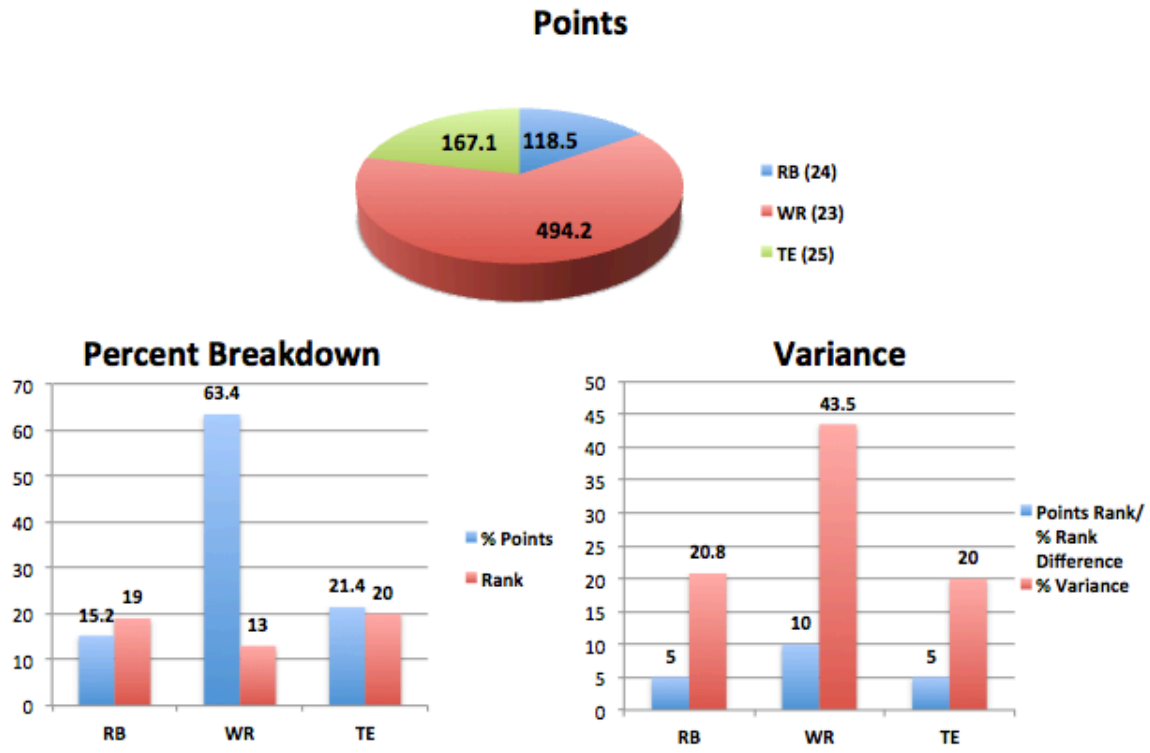
Potential 2014 Casualties: The running backs were the only positional grouping that failed to exceed expectations – expectations that were already low given their fourth lowest positional percentage. It's tough to envision them being a huge part of the passing offense in 2014.

Mitigating Factors: Following a one-year stint as the offensive coordinator of the Cleveland Browns, Norv Turner has moved North to oversee the Vikings' offense. Given the miracles he worked with **Jordan Cameron** last year, it's easy to get excited for tight end **Kyle Rudolph's** 2014 prospects. He also oversaw the breakout from receiver **Josh Gordon**, lending credence to the possibility of a receiver providing high-level production as well. Quarterback **Teddy Bridgewater** was drafted at the end of the first round, although he's no lock to beat out Cassel as the week one starter.

Seattle Seahawks

2013 Total Passing Points Rank: 25

Graphical Overview:



2013 Synopsis: Considering Seattle concluded the 2013 season with the second fewest passing attempts, a finish as the 25th best fantasy passing offense constitutes a win and is a testament to quarterback **Russell Wilson's** efficiency. Unfortunately for those seeking fantasy viability through the air, only two players – receivers **Golden Tate** and **Doug Baldwin** – finished with more than 400 receiving yards. While a collaborative effort helped round out the back-end of the positional scoring, this did little to help owners. On the whole no single position finished higher than 23rd with regard to total points.

Potential 2014 Beneficiaries: The largest positive variance can be seen with the receivers, where their positional percentage rank was 10 spots ahead of their total points rank. Should the offense deviate from its run-centric ways, it could be Baldwin, **Jermaine Kearse** and the returning **Percy Harvin** who benefit.

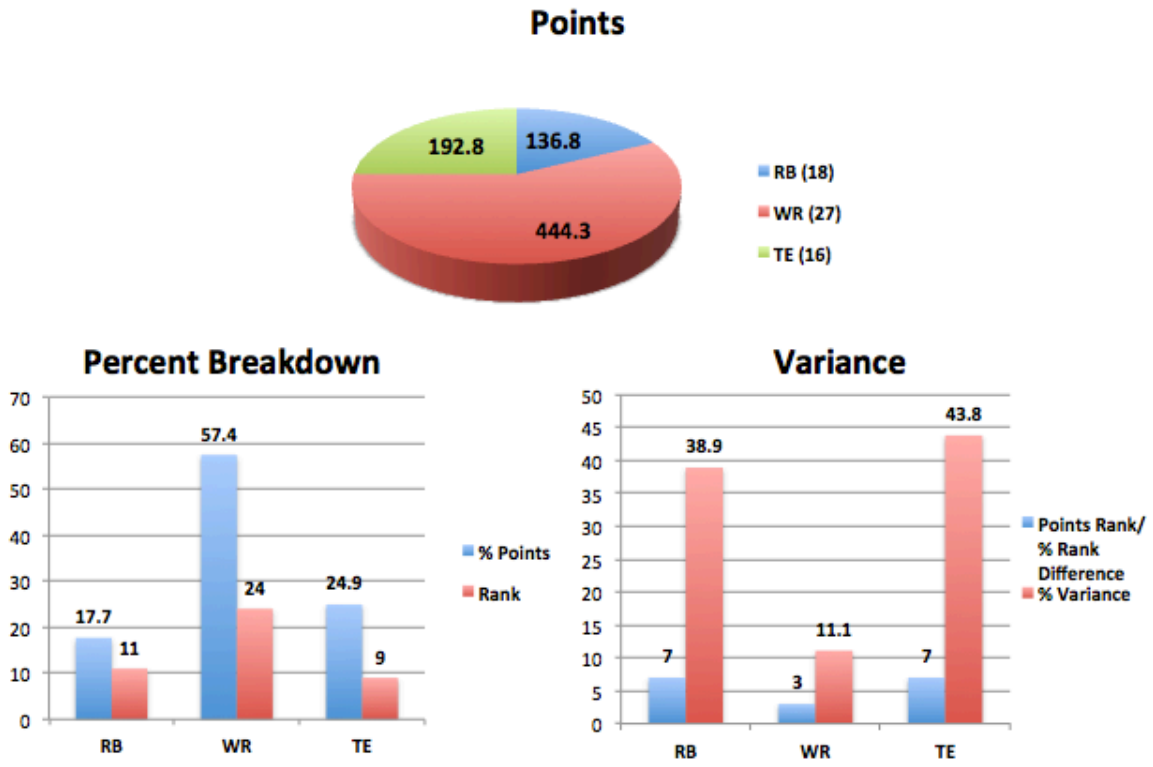
Potential 2014 Casualties: The point totals and percentages of the Seattle running backs and tight ends were closely bunched, turning this qualifier into an outright draw. I'll side with the running backs here, as workhorse **Marshawn Lynch** has shown what he is by now – a bell-cow with little involvement in the passing game. Conversely, rookie tight end **Luke Willson** was making strides towards the end of the season and I'd bank on his improvement buoying the position.

Mitigating Factors: Basically nothing here outside of Harvin's health and Tate signing with the Lions. Rookie receiver **Paul Richardson** was drafted in the second round, although it's tough to see him finding any immediate viability given the depth of the position.

Carolina Panthers

2013 Total Passing Points Rank: 26

Graphical Overview:



2013 Synopsis: Once again we have a team whose passing output is very nearly directly correlated with its passing volume. Similar to Seattle previously, quarterback **Cam Newton** manned the helm of a team that finished 30th in terms of passing attempts, mitigating the lackluster production. Proportionally speaking this production manifested itself in the form of tight ends (**Greg Olsen** was the overall PPR TE7), along with the running back corps – these groupings ranked 16th and 18th in total points, as well as 9th and 11th in positional percentages. The receivers, led by the aging **Steve Smith**, fell to the back of the line with the 27th most points and 24th highest positional percentage.

Potential 2014 Beneficiaries: Though it was a close one, the tight ends narrowly edge out the running backs here for the position most likely to benefit by overall improvement of the offense. Especially when considering the overhaul of the receiving corps, it would be no shock for Olsen to lead the team in targets by a significant margin.

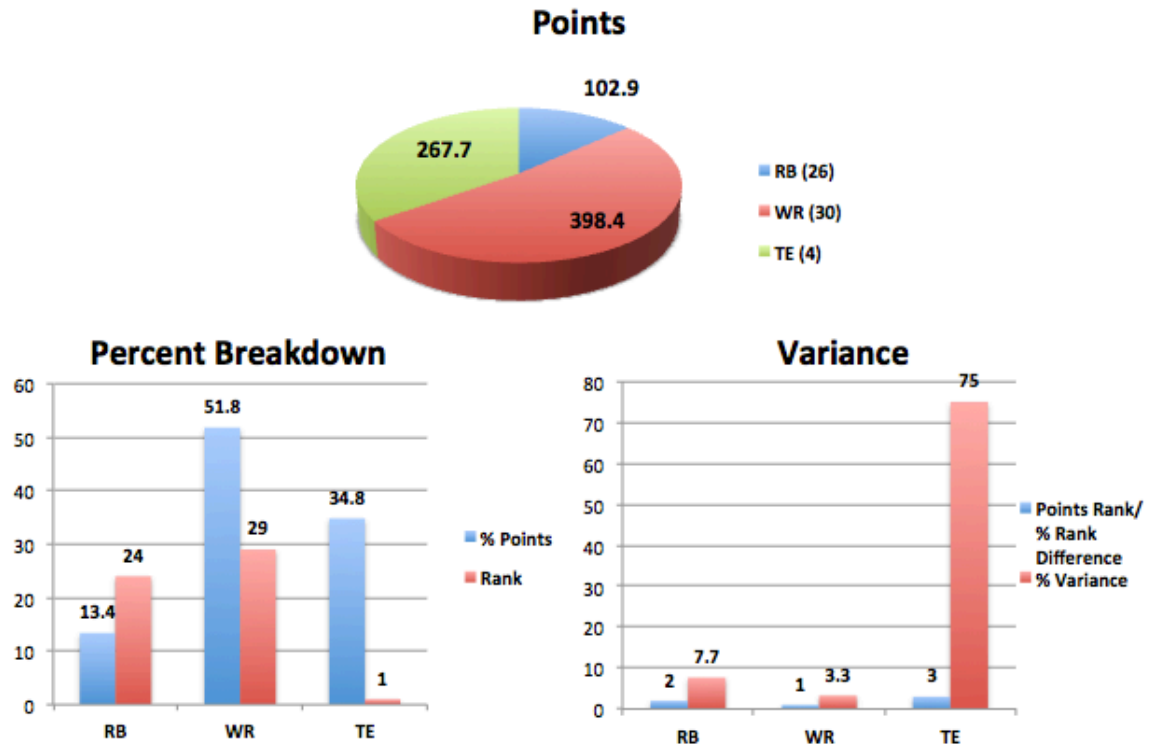
Potential 2014 Casualties: Not only did the receivers carve out a relatively small market share of the passing game, there will exist a trio of fresh faces in the starting lineup. Coupling the low variance with likely shaky chemistry and it's not difficult to see some bumps in the road ahead.

Mitigating Factors: As I alluded to previously, Smith has left for the greener pastures of Baltimore, while **Brandon LaFell** and **Ted Ginn Jr.** wound up in New England and Arizona respectively. Replacing them are the trio of rookie first round selection **Kelvin Benjamin**, as well as veterans **Jerricho Cotchery** and **Jason Avant**. Coupling this with the return of pass-catching running back **Jonathan Stewart** and it's not hard to see the 2014 offense going primarily through the running backs and tight ends.

St. Louis Rams

2013 Total Passing Points Rank: 27

Graphical Overview:



2013 Synopsis: Ostensibly due to an injury to quarterback **Sam Bradford**, who was averaging 37.4 passing attempts per game, the Rams shifted to a run-centric methodology so as to rely as little as possible on replacement-level talent **Kellen Clemens**. This ultimately resulted in the fifth fewest passing attempts in the league, aligning roughly with the overall point total. Interestingly enough, the distribution was far from equitable as the tight ends collected the fourth most points at the position, and tied for the top spot in terms of positional percentage. This was more due to a spread-the-wealth effort between top option **Jared Cook** and a myriad of backups, but was notable nonetheless. No single receiver topped 600 receiving yards, and no running back topped 150.

Potential 2014 Beneficiaries: Not only did the tight ends have the largest total variance of +3, the percent variance of +75.0% dwarfed the other positional totals. Fool me once, shame on you – you know how it goes – but the signs point to Cook as the one who could reap the benefits of an improving 2014 offense.

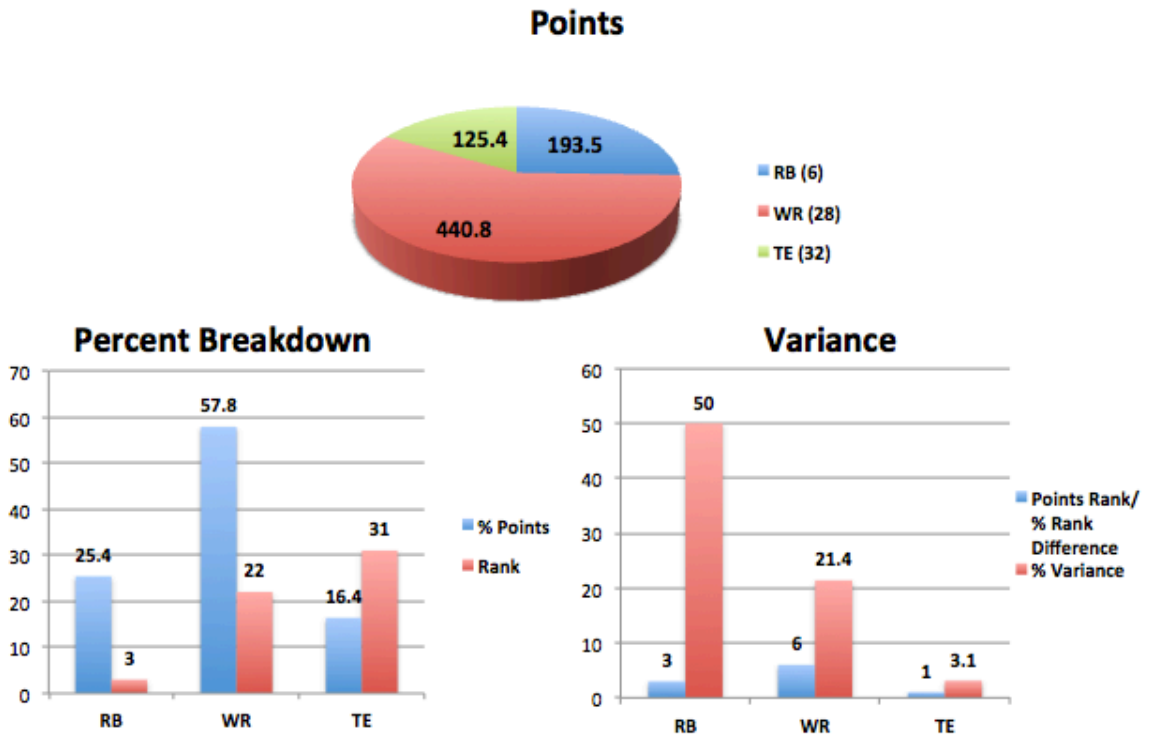
Potential 2014 Casualties: Given the similar variances between the running backs and receivers, as well as the youth and theoretical talent in the receiving corps, I'll go with the ball carriers here. **Zac Stacy** is not a natural pass-catcher and prior top receiving option **Daryl Richardson** was released in the off-season. As such I see ascension by the receivers as being far likelier than for the running backs.

Mitigating Factors: Receiver **Kenny Britt** was signed in the off-season, and while he hasn't been the same guy since a 2011 knee injury he should still be better than options such as **Brian Quick** or **Stedman Bailey**. Bradford's return to health should also allow for more points to the offense as a whole, as both volume and efficiency should increase over the numbers put forward by Clemens.

Oakland Raiders

2013 Total Passing Points Rank: 28

Graphical Overview:



2013 Synopsis: Though the Raiders represented a semi-functional passing offense when rookie UDFA **Matt McGloin** replaced glorified running back **Terrelle Pryor**, it wasn't enough to move the team out of the statistical basement. With that said, the team wasn't without its bright spots. The running backs played well above the scope of the offense, finishing with the sixth most points and third highest positional percentage. The combined 96 receptions and 855 receiving yards put forth by the ball carriers easily represented the team's only above average play, highlighted by mid-season replacement starter **Rashad Jennings**. The only other bright spot on the offense was second-year receiver **Rod Streater**, who somehow finished as the overall PPR WR33 despite the disappointing play under center.

Potential 2014 Beneficiaries: According to the variance it's once again tough to ignore the contributions of the ball carriers. Both **Darren McFadden** and **Maurice Jones-Drew** represent credible threats out of the backfield, and as such either/both could have better than expected receiving production in 2014.

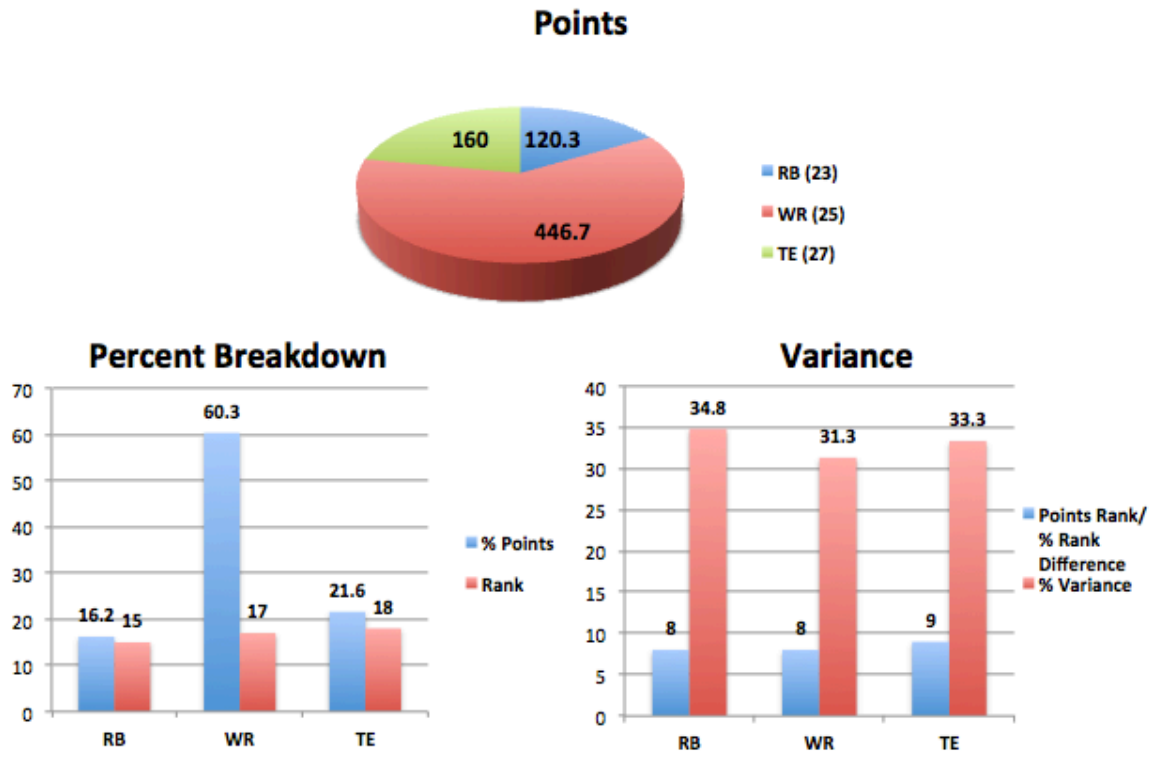
Potential 2014 Casualties: Already the weakest positional grouping on a relative level, the tight end corps also showed the smallest positive variance of +3.1%. When factoring in the off-season additions (see below), it's tough to imagine either **Mychal Rivera** or the returning **David Ausberry** performing at a fantasy viable level.

Mitigating Factors: By virtue of the defection of Jennings and the additions of quarterbacks **Matt Schaub** (free agency) and **Derek Carr** (second round of the draft), as well as Jones-Drew, the backfield will take on a whole new look. Whether it was due to personal preference or offensive design, Schaub has been known to target his WR1 relentlessly, and provide ample opportunity to his running backs and tight ends. Receiver **James Jones** was also signed away from Green Bay and will likely start opposite Streater. It wouldn't be a stretch to assume this offense should take a significant step forward in 2014.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers

2013 Total Passing Points Rank: 29

Graphical Overview:



2013 Synopsis: After finishing dead last in terms of total passing yardage it's no surprise to see the Bucs ranked amongst the league's poorest passing offenses. Though rookie **Mike Glennon** performed admirably while substituting for the pathetic **Josh Freeman**, it wasn't enough to mitigate an emphasis placed on the run-game by the now deposed Greg Schiano. With that said, there were a pair of bright spots in veteran receiver **Vincent Jackson** and rookie tight end **Timothy Wright**. As the main option in the passing game, V-Jax turned 30.9% of the team's targets into a whopping 33.3% of the total passing points, including obtaining 54.3% of the points to receivers. Wright, meanwhile, came on strong at the end of the season and finished as the PPR TE13. Perhaps due in part to the absence of star **Doug Martin**, no running back accumulated more than 29 receptions.

Potential 2014 Beneficiaries: It's too close to call here. According to the respective variances, wholesale improvement of the passing offense should lead to a roughly equivalent increase in production for each positional group.

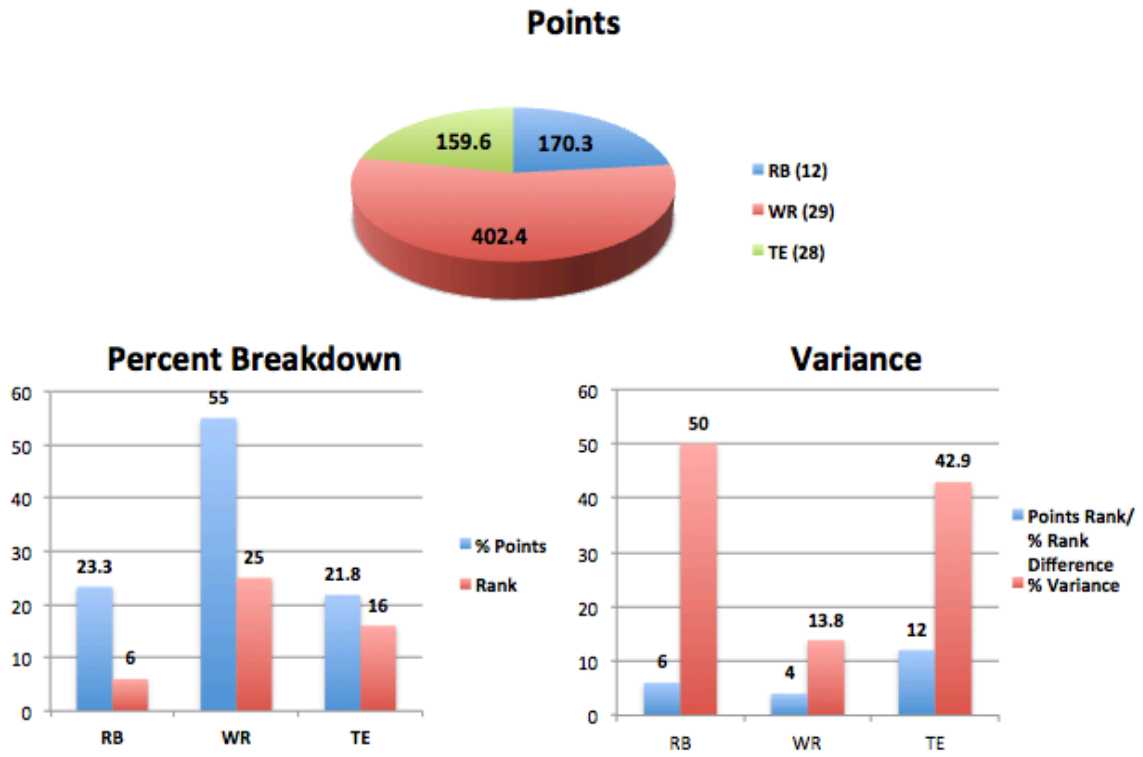
Potential 2014 Casualties: See the above. The variances are just too close to try and pick and choose a definitive trend.

Mitigating Factors: We're beginning to see another recurring trend with the bottom-feeders – wholesale changes to the roster, and sometimes the coaching staff. Gone is Schiano and replacing him is former Bears boss Lovie Smith. It's tough to obtain a firm grasp on Smith's tendencies, as he's popularly viewed as more of a defensive mind. The Bucs also picked up quarterback **Josh McCown** as their nominal starter, who will now look to replicate the sublime 2013 statistics he accrued with Chicago as **Jay Cutler's** fill-in. Aiding in that transition is the addition of a pair of mammoth pass catchers, rookie receiver **Mike Evans** and rookie tight end **Austin Seferian-Jenkins**, ostensibly turning the Tampa offense into Chicago South. Receiver **Mike Williams** was shipped off to Buffalo, although he hardly produced in 2013 due to a torn hamstring. Finally, Martin will return healthy, and **Charles Sims**, a plus receiving back, was drafted in the third round.

Buffalo Bills

2013 Total Passing Points Rank: 30

Graphical Overview:



2013 Synopsis: In a word, the results from the 2013 **EJ Manuel** experiment could be defined as incomplete. Due to a series of injuries, the rookie first rounder only played ten games last year, ceding starting work to **Thad Lewis** and **Jeff Tuel**. Likely due to a combination of Manuel's rawness as a passer and the discontinuity of the offense, the Bills finished the season 26th in completions, 28th in passing yards and 30th in passing touchdowns. As a result, only tight end **Scott Chandler** topped 600 receiving yards, and no pass catcher received more than three touchdowns. Proportionally speaking, the Buffalo ball carriers were an above average grouping (12th in total points and sixth in percentage), but the receivers and tight ends left much to be desired.

Potential 2014 Beneficiaries: Though it's a close battle between the running backs and tight ends, the scope of the percent variance for the ball carriers (12 --> 6, +50%) wins out. **CJ Spiller** and **Fred Jackson** are both plus receivers, and each should be fantasy viable come 2014.

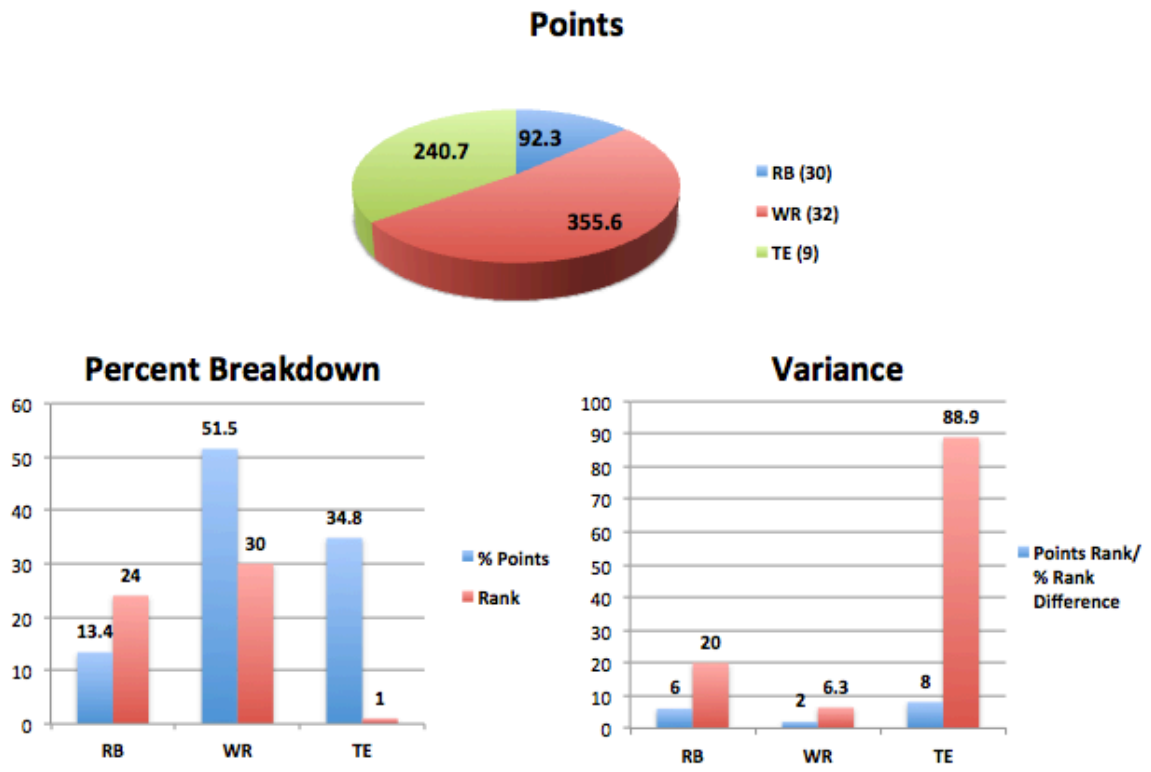
Potential 2014 Casualties: Already a moribund crew in 2013, the variance for the receivers was extremely low compared to the other positional groupings. Though **Robert Woods** should be improving and **Sammy Watkins** was drafted in the first round, based on the numbers alone we can't predict any sort of massive upgrade.

Mitigating Factors: Previous passing game stalwart **Stevie Johnson** was shipped off to the 49ers, seemingly replaced by former Buccaneer **Mike Williams**. As mentioned above, the team not only spent a high first round selection on Watkins, but in doing so gave up their 2015 first round selection as well – this could indicative of a plan to force feed their young rookie. The rest of the offense remains largely unchanged, with the exception as a trade for former Eagles running back **Bryce Brown**.

San Francisco 49ers

2013 Total Passing Points Rank: 31

Graphical Overview:



2013 Synopsis: By virtue of finishing dead last in completions and passing attempts, as well as 30th in passing yards the 49ers finished just a hair above the bottom of the barrel. Continuing, likely due to the injury of receiver **Michael Crabtree**, an amazing 20 of quarterback **Colin Kaepernick's** 21 touchdowns went to only two players – tight end **Vernon Davis** and receiver **Anquan Boldin**. Unsurprisingly, these were the only two consistent start-able entities as it related to the passing game. In fact, no other pass catcher was able to surpass 25 receptions or 300 receiving yards. With that said, Davis' contributions were able to launch the tight ends to a finish as the ninth highest scoring unit, tying with the Rams for the best positional percentage. The running backs and receivers (sans Boldin) were essentially useless through the air.

Potential 2014 Beneficiaries: Can this be anyone other than Davis? Sure, the touchdowns will likely regress, but you can't argue with the top overall positional percentage. He could theoretically be even better with increased volume.

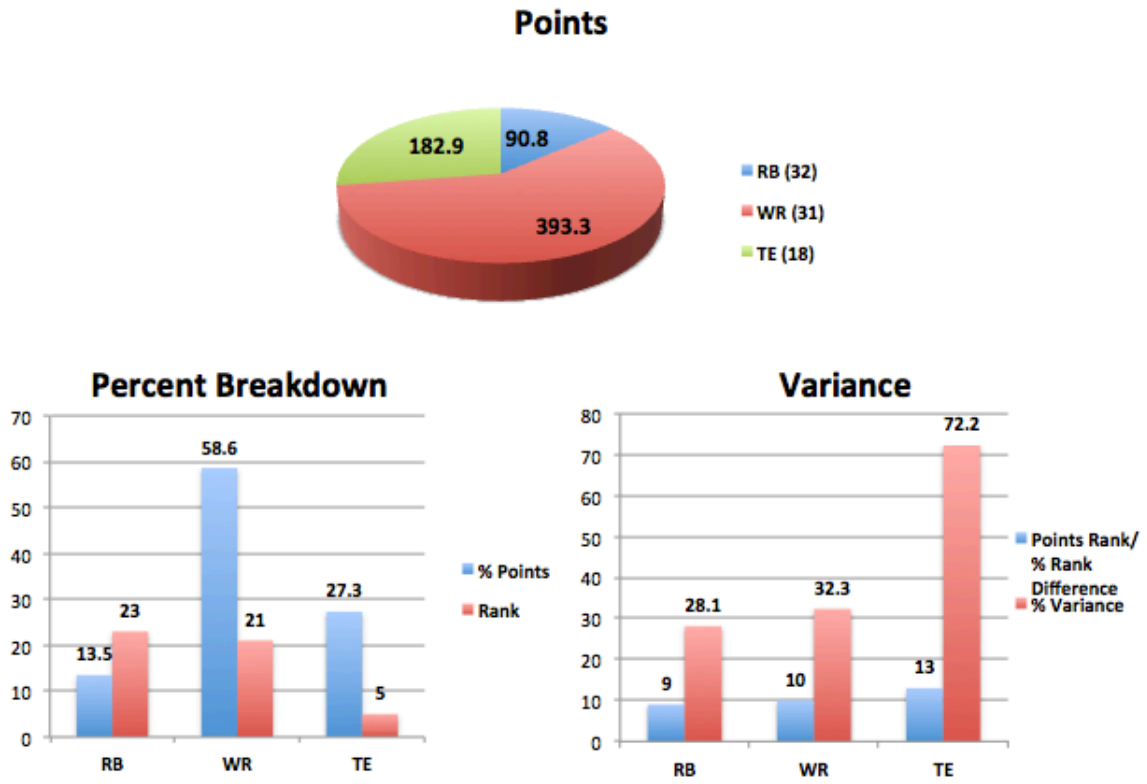
Potential 2014 Casualties: The variances of both the running backs and receivers were dwarfed by that of the tight ends, but I'll give the nod to the receiving corps here. On the aggregate they scored 37.7 fewer points than the 31st ranked receiving corps, averaging a paltry 22.2 available points on a weekly basis. Simply put, there may be too many mouths to feed for anyone to emerge from the muck.

Mitigating Factors: It would be disingenuous to assert that Crabtree's absence didn't have any effect on the passing offense. To wit, if Crabtree's eight-week stretch at the conclusion of the 2012 season (with Kaepernick under center) was extrapolated to a full season, he would have finished with 92 receptions for 1,330 receiving yards and 12 touchdowns (stats c/o RotoViz). Crabtree is back, and according to our own Dynasty Doctor Scott Peak his health has returned – this could wind up stealing production away from Davis and the tight ends. The 'Niners also traded for former Bill **Stevie Johnson** and drafted receiver **Bruce Ellington** in the fourth round, potentially signifying a paradigm shift back towards the receiving corps.

New York Jets

2013 Total Passing Points Rank: 32

Graphical Overview:



2013 Synopsis: Similar to division rival Buffalo, the Jets also spent 2013 breaking in a rookie quarterback in second round selection **Geno Smith**. Also similar were the clear growing pains, as Smith finished with a -9 turnover differential – on the whole, the Jets were 31st in passing yards and dead last with a mere 13 passing touchdowns. These statistics largely manifested themselves in the output by the running backs and receivers, who finished 32nd and 31st respectively with regards to total points. On the other hand, the tight end corps led by **Jeff Cumberland** and **Kellen Winslow Jr.** played well above the scope of the offense, finishing with the 18th most points at the position, buoyed by the fifth largest positional percentage. With that said, the Jets didn't afford a single consistent fantasy contributor on a weekly basis.

Potential 2014 Beneficiaries: The tight ends' percent variance of +72.2% was good for third at the position, and fourth amongst every positional grouping. Second rounder **Jace Amaro** wasn't drafted for his blocking, folks.

Potential 2014 Casualties: Both the running backs and receivers should have done better according to the percent variances, but both were impeded by the total lack of offensive proficiency. With that said, the receiving corps suffered key injuries during the course of the season (**Jeremy Kerley** and **Santonio Holmes**), providing some semblance of rationale for their poor performance. Given that, I'll go with the running backs as the position least likely to reap any sort of benefit should the offense take a turn for the better.

Mitigating Factors: The Jets could very well have three new starters at the skill positions, one for each grouping. Running back **Chris Johnson** was lured away via free agency, and should he beat out incumbent **Chris Ivory** it's likely we'll see more passing production to the position. Receiver **Eric Decker** was signed from Denver and will automatically assume WR1 duties, while the afore-mentioned Amaro shouldn't have a huge challenge unseating Cumberland. Gang Green also drafted three receivers – **Jalen Saunders** (fourth round), **Shaq Evans** (fourth round) and **Quincy Enunwa** (sixth round), further bolstering a previously abysmal unit.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