

NFL Research Report – DK Showdown

I did an analysis of 50 NFL Draftkings Showdowns using Rotogrinders history and it showed the optimal lineup to play. So I compiled all of these results to come up with some data to show what these top, optimal lineups consisted of.

Once I get more data of actual Showdown results, I will display those results against these to show opportunities.

1. Don't be afraid to leave money on the table for NFL Showdown.

Salary		
>49k	19	38%
48-49	12	24%
47-48	10	20%
<47	9	18%
	50	

62% of optimal lineups used less than 49k salary. There are many low priced options so don't feel like you always need to pay up. 18% of lineups didn't even use 47k.

The average salary was 47,610.

2. You normally pay up for Captain but not all the time.

CPT Salary breakout		
>15000	20	40%
12k-15k	12	24%
8k-12k	12	24%
<8k	6	12%
	50	

40% of the time the captain is over \$15k salary and 64% of the time he is over \$12k. But there are a decent amount of times his salary is below 8k even.

3. The Captain's Team is stacked 48% of the time

When picking lineups, you can pick 6 players, but the most you can use is 5 from one team.

When we looked at the optimal lineups, we found that whichever team the captain plays for usually dominates the total players used.

total players from cpt team		
1	2	4%
2	10	20%
3	14	28%
4	16	32%
5	8	16%
	50	

For example, if the captain is on the Eagles, then the caption above tells us that 16% of the time, the optimal lineup had 5 Eagles players on it. 32% of the time the optimal lineup had 4 Eagles of the 6 total players, which includes the Captain.

Only 24% of the time was the captain the only player from that team used or they only had 1 other player from that team.

This just tells us that whichever player you use at captain, you should have at least 2 players from his team in your lineup.

4. The 2nd highest priced guy is normally over \$10k

82% of the time, the second highest priced guy is over \$10k in salary.

5. Which positions are used the most in these optimal lineups?

All players	Total used	pct	CPT	Pct	Util	Pct
QB	63	21%	9	18%	54	22%
RB	71	24%	19	38%	52	21%
WR	97	33%	18	36%	79	32%
TE	23	8%	0	0%	23	9%
K	18	6%	2	4%	16	7%
D	23	8%	2	4%	21	9%
	295		50		245	

According to the stats above, TE, K and D are all used under 10% each in the optimal lineups. Playing those can be a way to differentiate yourself, however they frequently won't help you win.

QB, RB and WE make up 78% of all the players in the optimal lineups. Focus on them.

Those positions also make up 92% of the Captain spot. TE, K and D should never be used at captain.

6. Always play at least one QB

Only 8% of optimal lineups had 0 QB's in it. 34% of them had both QB's. Make sure to pay up for them.

#Qbs in a lineup		
0	4	8%
1	29	58%
2	17	34%

7. If you play Defense or Kicker, just play 1

#D and K in lineup		
0	20	40%
1	21	42%
2	7	14%
3	2	4%

40% of optimal lineups don't include a D or K. 18% include more than 1.

Both D and K are played at similar rates too, looking at the chart below:

#D in lineup		
0	30	60%
1	17	34%
2	3	6%
3	0	0%

#K in lineup		
0	33	66%
1	16	32%
2	1	2%
3	0	0%

60 to 66% of the time a K or D isn't in the optimal lineup. And less than 10% of the time was there an optimal lineup with both kickers or both defenses in it.

8. What are the most common stacks used?

Stacks	# of stacks of 50 lineups	PCT
1QB 1WR one team	37	74%
1QB 1WR two team	32	64%
1QB 2WR one team	16	32%
1QB 2WR & 1Qb 1WR	16	32%
1QB 1RB one team	15	30%
1QB 1RB two team	14	28%
1RB 1D one team	11	22%
1RB 1D two team	11	22%
1QB 1TE one team	7	14%
1QB 1TE two team	2	4%
1QB 1D one team	1	2%
1QB 1D two team	1	2%

The most common stack is 1 QB 1 WR from one team. It occurred in 74% of the optimal lineups.

The next most common was the 1 QB 1 WR from both teams. It occurred 64% of the time. Of these lineups, one of the team used 2 WR in half the lineups, (32% of the time)

Combining QB with RB is fairly common too, although only half as much as with WR. But honestly more than I though. 28% of the time there were 1 QB 1 RB stacks occurring from both teams in the game.

Summary

In summary, the best optimal lineups appears to be to use both QB's and stack at least 1 WR from them. That leaves us only 2 open spots left, which should be the best plays, whether RB or WR or even one of the lesser positions. Never use more than 1 of the lesser position and don't be afraid to leave \$1k or \$2k salary on the table.