Fantasy football provides a way for many fans of the NFL to continue their shared interest while still having fun with their friends or even strangers. However, as the season progresses, many owners run into the issue of losing their best players due to injury. After the player comes back from injury, it’s extremely difficult to decide whether to put him in or not, because you don’t know how they will perform their first week back. This presentation will help alleviate some of that doubt by performing injury analysis to determine which injuries are most detrimental to fantasy points. The presentation will also show which players are affected most by injury by analyzing their fantasy performances the week after they come back from injury.

Materials and Methods
I scraped five years of injury data from nfl.com, then scraped five years of fantasy football points data from fantasydata.com. The data was made publicly available through those sites. Once downloaded, I imported them both into R and found a way to combine both of them into a single database. The biggest issue I ran into was a way to determine if a player was riding the bench the whole game. The reason this is an issue is because players who are active on game day, but don’t see any snaps, are still given a fantasy score of zero points. The reason this is an issue is that it drags down the averages for everyone else. For example, Johnny Holton for the Steelers had 0 fantasy points most of last season. While he did get some offensive snaps, he wasn’t a part of our offense. The way I fixed the issue of bench riders was:

1. Using Pro Football Focus (PFF) grades, you could also apply this to defensive players and offensive linemen.
2. Adding more data. Having 10+ years of data would make this study have more definitive conclusions.
3. Having more complete data. Sometimes players who are injured didn’t have anything listed under injury, so there were incomplete data points.

Acknowledgements
Allan Liska
Roseanne Liska
Charlotte Edwards
Pat Ross

The Big Ben Effect: An Analysis of how Injuries Impact Players in Fantasy Football

By: Bruce Liska
Syracuse University

Introduction
Fantasy football provides a way for many fans of the NFL to continue their shared interest while still having fun with their friends or even strangers. However, as the season progresses, many owners run into the issue of losing their best players due to injury. After the player comes back from injury, it’s extremely difficult to decide whether to put him in or not, because you don’t know how they will perform their first week back. This presentation will help alleviate some of that doubt by performing injury analysis to determine which injuries are most detrimental to fantasy points. The presentation will also show which players are affected most by injury by analyzing their fantasy performances the week after they come back from injury.

Background
Almost every person who plays fantasy football has had injury issues during the year; especially this year. My 1st pick (Michael Thomas) has played half of a game so far. Along with Thomas, Henry Ruggs and Josh Jacobs have been injury plagued this year too. Anyways, for the last few weeks, Michael Thomas has always been questionable, and at the time, I didn’t know if I should put him in or not. While it’s risky putting someone in who would be playing injured, it might just be worth it if it is someone of Michael Thomas’s caliber. This thought caused me to have this idea for this presentation.

Materials and Methods
I scraped five years of injury data from nfl.com, then scraped five years of fantasy football points data from fantasydata.com. The data was made publicly available through those sites. Once downloaded, I imported them both into R and found a way to combine both of them into a single database. The biggest issue I ran into was a way to determine if a player was riding the bench the whole game. The reason this is an issue is because players who are active on game day, but don’t see any snaps, are still given a fantasy score of zero points. The reason this is an issue is that it drags down the averages for everyone else. For example, Johnny Holton for the Steelers had 0 fantasy points most of last season. While he did get some offensive snaps, he wasn’t a part of our offense. The way I fixed the issue of bench riders was:

1. Using Pro Football Focus (PFF) grades, you could also apply this to defensive players and offensive linemen.
2. Adding more data. Having 10+ years of data would make this study have more definitive conclusions.
3. Having more complete data. Sometimes players who are injured didn’t have anything listed under injury, so there were incomplete data points.

Acknowledgements
Allan Liska
Roseanne Liska
Charlotte Edwards
Pat Ross

The Big Ben Effect: An Analysis of how Injuries Impact Players in Fantasy Football

By: Bruce Liska
Syracuse University

Introduction
Fantasy football provides a way for many fans of the NFL to continue their shared interest while still having fun with their friends or even strangers. However, as the season progresses, many owners run into the issue of losing their best players due to injury. After the player comes back from injury, it’s extremely difficult to decide whether to put him in or not, because you don’t know how they will perform their first week back. This presentation will help alleviate some of that doubt by performing injury analysis to determine which injuries are most detrimental to fantasy points. The presentation will also show which players are affected most by injury by analyzing their fantasy performances the week after they come back from injury.

Background
Almost every person who plays fantasy football has had injury issues during the year; especially this year. My 1st pick (Michael Thomas) has played half of a game so far. Along with Thomas, Henry Ruggs and Josh Jacobs have been injury plagued this year too. Anyways, for the last few weeks, Michael Thomas has always been questionable, and at the time, I didn’t know if I should put him in or not. While it’s risky putting someone in who would be playing injured, it might just be worth it if it is someone of Michael Thomas’s caliber. This thought caused me to have this idea for this presentation.

Materials and Methods
I scraped five years of injury data from nfl.com, then scraped five years of fantasy football points data from fantasydata.com. The data was made publicly available through those sites. Once downloaded, I imported them both into R and found a way to combine both of them into a single database. The biggest issue I ran into was a way to determine if a player was riding the bench the whole game. The reason this is an issue is because players who are active on game day, but don’t see any snaps, are still given a fantasy score of zero points. The reason this is an issue is that it drags down the averages for everyone else. For example, Johnny Holton for the Steelers had 0 fantasy points most of last season. While he did get some offensive snaps, he wasn’t a part of our offense. The way I fixed the issue of bench riders was:

1. Using Pro Football Focus (PFF) grades, you could also apply this to defensive players and offensive linemen.
2. Adding more data. Having 10+ years of data would make this study have more definitive conclusions.
3. Having more complete data. Sometimes players who are injured didn’t have anything listed under injury, so there were incomplete data points.

Acknowledgements
Allan Liska
Roseanne Liska
Charlotte Edwards
Pat Ross

The Big Ben Effect: An Analysis of how Injuries Impact Players in Fantasy Football

By: Bruce Liska
Syracuse University

Introduction
Fantasy football provides a way for many fans of the NFL to continue their shared interest while still having fun with their friends or even strangers. However, as the season progresses, many owners run into the issue of losing their best players due to injury. After the player comes back from injury, it’s extremely difficult to decide whether to put him in or not, because you don’t know how they will perform their first week back. This presentation will help alleviate some of that doubt by performing injury analysis to determine which injuries are most detrimental to fantasy points. The presentation will also show which players are affected most by injury by analyzing their fantasy performances the week after they come back from injury.

Background
Almost every person who plays fantasy football has had injury issues during the year; especially this year. My 1st pick (Michael Thomas) has played half of a game so far. Along with Thomas, Henry Ruggs and Josh Jacobs have been injury plagued this year too. Anyways, for the last few weeks, Michael Thomas has always been questionable, and at the time, I didn’t know if I should put him in or not. While it’s risky putting someone in who would be playing injured, it might just be worth it if it is someone of Michael Thomas’s caliber. This thought caused me to have this idea for this presentation.

Materials and Methods
I scraped five years of injury data from nfl.com, then scraped five years of fantasy football points data from fantasydata.com. The data was made publicly available through those sites. Once downloaded, I imported them both into R and found a way to combine both of them into a single database. The biggest issue I ran into was a way to determine if a player was riding the bench the whole game. The reason this is an issue is because players who are active on game day, but don’t see any snaps, are still given a fantasy score of zero points. The reason this is an issue is that it drags down the averages for everyone else. For example, Johnny Holton for the Steelers had 0 fantasy points most of last season. While he did get some offensive snaps, he wasn’t a part of our offense. The way I fixed the issue of bench riders was:

1. Using Pro Football Focus (PFF) grades, you could also apply this to defensive players and offensive linemen.
2. Adding more data. Having 10+ years of data would make this study have more definitive conclusions.
3. Having more complete data. Sometimes players who are injured didn’t have anything listed under injury, so there were incomplete data points.

Acknowledgements
Allan Liska
Roseanne Liska
Charlotte Edwards
Pat Ross