

Ladd Biro's Top 25 Tight Ends

Rankings are based on each player's projected position by the end of the 2007 season. This is a value ranking, NOT a recommended draft order. Certain players may be drafted significantly higher or lower based upon their perceived value to other owners. Stats listed are from 2006.

Updated: 8/6/07

Levels		Elite	Near Elite	Solid	Marginal	Insurance Only	
RANK	PLAYER	TEAM	GS	REC	REC YDS	REC TDS	COMMENT
1	Antonio Gates	SD	16	71	924	9	In a class all his own. There is no position where the disparity between No. 1 and No. 2 is greater.
2	Todd Heap	BAL	16	73	765	6	Has been a top 4 TE in four of the last five years (only playing in 6 games in '04 due to injury). He's still the most reliable receiver in Baltimore.
3	Jeremy Shockey	NYG	15	66	623	7	Considered over-rated by many, but few tight ends find the end zone more frequently than Shockey.
4	Vernon Davis	SF	8	20	265	3	We saw glimpses of his potential at the end of '06, and all signs point to a breakout year for the second-year monster. Alex Smith will lean on him, and he'll be given every opportunity to fulfill the team's huge expectations.
5	Chris Cooley	WAS	16	57	734	6	Already developed good chemistry with Jason Campbell at the end of '06. Look for a banner year in '07.
6	Tony Gonzalez	KC	15	73	900	5	He's getting older, but the real worry is who will be throwing him the ball. He remains the Chiefs' No. 1 receiving threat, but until the QB situation is resolved satisfactorily, you should be wary.
7	Jason Witten	DAL	15	64	754	1	His relationship on and off the field with Tony Romo is special. Look for his production to return to elite 2004-05 levels.
8	Kellen Winslow, Jr.	CLE	16	89	875	3	Keep him healthy and give him a solid QB and he could give Gates a run for his money. Unfortunately, neither is likely to happen in '07.
9	Alge Crumpler	ATL	16	56	780	8	Joey Harrington will presumably learn there are other receivers on the field besides Crumpler. Vick never figured that out. As a result, his stats may decline somewhat.
10	L.J. Smith	PHI	15	50	611	5	Has all the tools, but must stop under-achieving (and dropping easy passes). If McNabb stays healthy, should have little trouble bettering last year's career-best production.
11	Owen Daniels	HOU	12	34	352	5	Five TDs is pretty impressive stuff for a rookie. Considering he did it in Houston, he's a veritable fantasy stud. He's likely to be the No. 2 receiver after Andre Johnson, which won't amount to much. But he has plenty of upside.
12	Dallas Clark	IND	12	30	367	4	Has never played an entire season, which has kept him from fulfilling his potential in this explosive offense. Though he's the clear starter, he must compete with Ben Utecht and Bryan Fletcher, two other talented receivers, for a limited number of TE looks.
13	Randy McMichael	STL	16	62	640	3	A change in scenery may be exactly what he needs to fulfill his massive potential. There will be plenty of balls to go around in St. Louis, so look for a nice rebound for McMichael in '07.
14	Ben Watson	NE	13	49	643	3	Great potential, but could get lost in the shuffle of great receivers fighting for Brady's affections.
15	Heath Miller	PIT	16	34	393	5	Entering his third season, he remains a big red-zone target. But he and Big Ben must develop a more consistent rapport for him to join the elites.
16	Marcus Pollard	SEA	5	12	100	0	The Seahawks' new starter will have opportunities to shine, but at the ripe old age of 35, it's hard to get your hopes up too much for the former Colt and Lion.
17	Marcedes Lewis	JAX	3	13	126	1	Full of potential but suffers from playing in a run-first offense. That said, the receivers competing with him for attention are not formidable. Consider him a sleeper with room to excel in '07.
18	Tony Scheffler	DEN	5	18	286	4	Caught four TD passes in Jay Cutler's five starts, but Daniel Graham will likely start. It will be tough for Scheffler to make a consistent impact.
19	Desmond Clark	CHI	16	45	626	6	Will have a difficult time repeating his solid production from '06 with promising rookie Greg Olsen in the fold.
20	Ben Troupe	TEN	9	13	150	2	Can't seem to stay healthy, and Bo Scaife is waiting in the wings. Rule of thumb in '07: Don't put too much stock in any Titan. Especially a TE.
21	Eric Johnson	NO	9	34	292	2	Has a chance to excel if he can just stay healthy. After missing the entire 2003 and 2005 seasons, and 3 games in '06, that's one giant "if."
22	Greg Olsen	CHI	*	*	*	*	Rookie TEs rarely make a fantasy impact. See Davis, V and Lewis, M in '06.
23	Alex Smith	TB	7	35	250	3	Will compete with troubled Jerramy Stevens and, even worse, must contend with an aging QB trying to make chicken salad out of the chicken scratch that is the Bucs' offense.
24	Zach Miller	OAK	*	*	*	*	He's a rookie TE playing for the offensively challenged Raiders. What more do you need to know? OK, he has great talent, so he has a chance to succeed. But not likely this year.
25	Chris Baker	NYJ	14	31	300	4	The Jets don't make significant use of their TE as a receiver. If they don't value him, you shouldn't either.