

An NFL Draft of Cities

Before the creation of the NFL, and the resulting rowdy Cowboys fans, gambling woes, fantasy nightmares, consistent Washington football team drama, beating up on the Jets yearly, Brady hate, 28-3, the Dawg Pound, griddy touchdown celebrations, the turf monster, butt fumbles, 0-16, the Johnny Football era, and players ending their careers by casually storming off the field shirtless, the NFL was just a concept. Nobody knew where teams would land, what their name was, or their brand. Let's start from scratch and draft cities for the NFL if it were a brand new league being built. ***This is purely subjective.***

1. New York

No shock here. The city with the largest influence in America gets the first team. New York is influential in the food, finance, fashion, tourist scene among others. Its allure culturally and the breadth of population should be enough to make any league consider it the top city.

2. Los Angeles

The most influential city on the West Coast gets the second spot here. Los Angeles boasts a high population and would bring large revenue as the biggest city on the Pacific coast. The entertainment industry being here could certainly draw celebrity fans—and investors. A football team would certainly “charge” up the atmosphere here.

3. Chicago

The nation's third largest city will get the third spot (I promise it won't go in order). Closer to the middle of the country, Chicago would be the largest market in this region and what player wouldn't want quick access to warm, cheesy deep dish pizza after winning games in consistent sub-zero temps?

4. New York

New York is just too GIANT to not have two teams...or even more. This market provides massive, massive opportunities for revenue. If a city never sleeps and is always jetting along, why wouldn't the NFL love to make its mark 24 hours per day in this “Big Apple” as New Yorkers call it.

5. Los Angeles/Anaheim/Orange County

Like New York, LA is just so expansive that even Anaheim and Orange County alone are populated enough to represent their own major city. I mean, just don't keep driving out of downtown LA into the desert and you'll see plenty of people. Perfect place for the NFL to ram in a rival. And... action! Let the drama with a crosstown rivalry in Tinseltown begin.



6. Dallas

Texas is the perfect market in the middle of the country and what better brand than Dallas? Everything's bigger here and why not make football a big thing? Maybe some Southern cowboy millionaire named Jerry might take a chance on a team here.

7. Philadelphia

A city with historical significance like Philadelphia gets a high spot here. In close proximity to other major cities and boasting a high metro population, this is a prime opportunity to get three teams within a couple hours of New York. Just keep the cheesesteaks away from the team until the game's over.

8. San Francisco

LA may have its influence but the Bay sure brings competition too. The massive population here means more striking financial gold for the NFL just as the 49ers did years ago and a new intrastate rivalry could be born. It could also bring excitement to all the monotonous tech professionals slugging through life in this fog-engulfed town. Next thing to accomplish in Silicon Valley: an entire team of robots representing a team.

9. Houston

Let's keep expanding into Texas as Dallas alone wouldn't be smart in such a large state (population wise and geographically). Houston is the fourth-largest city in the country so an obvious choice here. Nothing better than being welcomed by the Texans as your team flies into George Bush Airport where year-round Spring Break is also taking place only an hour away.

10. Atlanta

Atlanta is growing as a city (through Northern transplants) but it's hard to undermine the influence this metropolis has on the South. It's the largest city in the region and a prime spot to try and develop a fanbase. And Chuck, Ernie, Shaq, and the guys will be able to dissect every

moment of the local team's game from the comfort of Midtown. Maybe the number of football fans could outnumber the peaches in the state one day. Maybe.



11. San Jose

Like LA and New York, the Bay is simply too large to not have two teams, so we add another in the South Bay. Man Jose could soon become a football-driven town that forgets about the shortage of women. Let's goooooo dude.

12. Boston

Another Northeast addition as we add the great city of Boston to this list. No reason to skip out on a city this big when most of the neighbors down I-95 are getting loaded with teams. But wait, let's just hope there's enough space to put an entire stadium with room for chilly tailgates and everything.

13. Miami

Next time you go party in South Beach, consider catching a football game. In a city where things are always happening, the NFL would be smart to try and sneak in sports to the party. Make the stadium beachside and you might see a dolphin swimming nearby while you get a rejuvenating drink at that concession stand overlooking the ocean.

14. Phoenix

The desert won't be so dry anymore as the Southwest Plains will now house their own team. The average person may not know this, but Phoenix is the FIFTH largest city in the country. Definitely a great place to earn money for the league. And on the bright side, at least it will only be 110 degrees at kickoff instead of 150 if the season starts later in the year.

15. Seattle

A Northwest city with many corporate branches, Seattle citizens may be able to find some excitement in the dreary days of traveling to Microsoft or Amazon with soaked coats and umbrellas through an action-packed NFL game. And who knows, maybe Starbucks might plant a few stations inside the stadium so let's not try to rain on the coffee chain's parade, either.

16. Toronto

Ah, who can forget the most influential city in the great country of Canada? Toronto boasts close proximity to Detroit and Buffalo and the size of the market makes it quite attractive for a league like the NFL. The travel nightmare wouldn't be as bad as say, London, so let's put a team up North and have an annual game called the Frozen Bowl on January 1st.



17. Minneapolis

Much of the middle of the country remains untapped right now except Chicago, so let's show some love to Minneapolis, which is a growing city with a lot of corporate saturation. As long as the bitter cold doesn't reach players and fans, we're all good to go here folks. Gotta give credit to the residents who endure this cold. But perhaps Target could sponsor a cozy, indoor stadium with some free snacks from all the Aisle 11s in the metro?

18. Denver

Denver is known for the outdoors and recreation, so sports would fit in right here. It's the largest city in the region and the sky's the limit for potential in a city where the vibe is all about being high (in altitude and other ways, potentially).

19. Detroit

More love for the Midwest as we expand to Detroit, another Rust Belt town with proud fans. The Motor City will hopefully be revving up for a championship run once the league takes off. Maybe season-pass holders can get a subscription for a yearly new Ford vehicle too?

20. New Orleans

Beignets, Gumbo, Voodoo, Bourbon Street chaos, and football. You can be a saint another time, as you can enjoy the vibe in the Big Easy with a game and a good time.

21. Austin

With such a large population, Texas is the NFL's kind of place. Austin is a booming city and the Lone Star state gets a third team to sustain. This time, in a city where young professionals and corporations are flocking to in bunches. I'll spur away from San Antonio and go with the market that's currently hot (in popularity and temperature I guess too).



22. San Diego

Like Texas, California is filled with breadths of population and coastal city San Diego may not be as big as its Golden State counterparts, but the allure of the coast and magnificent weather makes this a perfect setting for California's fifth team. Think about how charged up San Diego residents would have been if their city didn't get a team?

23. Tampa

Time to give some more love to Florida. Now, Tampa and Orlando are close to each other in distance, but we'll give Tampa the team based on a coin flip. Given both metros are nearby, there is more room to increase fans from all around the central region of the state. Orlando can't steal the team away as the new team mantra will be Defend the Bay. Maybe add a pirate ship in the stadium for good measure?

24. Cleveland

To the shores of Lake Erie (that are more blue than brown) as we look to fill up the remaining team locations. Cleveland may not be the most exciting city but Ohio's population size will more than make up for it in decent revenue. Plus there's a supposedly famous Cleveland sign somewhere right?

25. Las Vegas

Already an exciting place as is, tourists can now catch a game when visiting Sin City. And who better to bet on than the hometown team while you're trying to earn some cash at the Bellagio? Time to raid this tourist attraction with NFL fans.

26. Kansas City

The true heartland now gets a team but with all those miles of cornfields surrounding KC, who will cheer for the team? We'll take the risk.

27. Nashville

Well, you can now stroll down Broadway and see a tractor randomly going down the street, crowded bars, loud country music, and an NFL stadium at the end. You'd have to be a real titan to conquer Broadway and cheer for an NFL team during a game on the same day, but hey, nothing's impossible. This rising Southern market with an NFL team will have you singing for the home team, you star.



28. Indianapolis

Located on the Rust Belt, Indy is known as the Crossroads of America. Known as a racing and basketball town, the Midwest city now bolsters its reputation with the addition of a football squad. How about naming the stadium after a racecar, or maybe an autoparts company perhaps?

29. Baltimore

I obviously can't forget Baltimore on this list. It deserves a spot after its four Megalopolis siblings all made the cut. The real question is will crab cakes be the hottest item sold at the games?

30. Chicago

If it can host two baseball teams, it can host two football teams. As the third-largest city in the country, the market here is just too good to pass up. Just skip on a name based on socks, though.

31. Cincinnati

Ah, the Queen City. And I'm not talking about Charlotte. I mean, I can't forget the intrastate rival to Cleveland, Cincy. A new sports nemesis is born for the Cleveland....whatevers.

32. London

This is a complete out there pick (in terms of my logic and geography), but not so much when you realize this taps into a whole different continent filled with population and sports fans. London may already have "football" but let's complicate matters.