

Hi All: Man, the injuries just keep on coming. I was actually thinking after the first week that maybe this would be a healthier than normal year in baseball, but then players started dropping like flies. Right now every team's depth is sure getting tested.

As far as performance of players who are still healthy, I generally do not worry too much if one of my players has a slow start the first week or two. But if after three weeks a guy is still performing poorly then I start to think it might be time for that player to ride some pine. Of course, that does always work out well either- we all know the sinking feeling of benching a guy just before he finally gets hot. Decisions such as when to start a guy who has been hot, or to bench a guy even if he was one of your higher draft picks, are what makes playing this game 'fun', eh?

FIRST IN-SEASON DRAFT: The good news is that the first mid-season draft is coming up. This week we have again printed a list of the top available players in your league (ranked by major league playing time). **If you are in a league that is drafting by sending ranking lists to our office then your draft list must be submitted** (postmarked, faxed, e-mailed or turned in from your league's web page) **by/before 4 PM (Pacific time) Monday, May 4th to be used.** You do NOT have to cut any players when you draft players – your new players will simply be added to your roster. If we do not get a list from you then the draft program will assign players to your team based on major league playing time. Please note that for leagues drafting by sending us ranking lists any TRADES involving draft picks in this supplemental draft must also be submitted by the postmark deadlines to take effect!

If you are in a league that is doing the in-season supplemental draft using the web draft system (and your league is following our normal schedule and draft rules) then **your web draft will begin Tuesday afternoon May 5th.** The exact times for the web drafts are shown on the page called 'www draft results' on your league's web site. (If there is no 'www draft results' page for your league then your league has not been scheduled to do a web draft.)

For leagues drafting either by sending lists to us, or that are doing the web draft and are following our normal schedule and rules, there is a note about the type of draft for your league right above the standings on this week's game report. If there is **no** note about the draft right above the standings then your league is doing their own draft (or drafting at different times or with different rules), in which case you should contact your league commissioner about your draft.

Mid-season drafts run thru us do still follow the original draft eligibility rules - players who are on the other league's original Scoresheet player list are not eligible in this draft. Players who are on neither league's Scoresheet list are not eligible to be drafted until they sign with, or are drafted by, a major league organization in your type of league. So, players still in college or high school are **not** eligible in this May *Scoresheet* draft.

To enter your list for the web draft you should use the link on your league page called '<your league's> undrafted players and ranking list'. For web drafts that ranking list window will have a 'save' button at the bottom of the list, but not a send button. If you are in a league that is drafting by sending ranking lists to us you can also use that web based ranking list to create and send your list to us (in those type of leagues there is a send button.) If you are in a web draft league please do **NOT** e-mail, fax or postal mail us a list – your list needs to be entered on your league's ranking list page so the web draft program can access it. Like all ranking list drafts, if you have no list entered when it is your team's turn to pick the program will simply assign a player to your team based on major league playing time so far this season.

There ARE ROSTER BALANCING RULES for hitters in the supplemental draft - you can get up to 2 players from the same fielding position - but there are **no** limits on how many pitchers you can get. Just as in the pre-season draft, a plus (+) **can** be used to get you one more player at a position than normal roster balancing allows, so by using plusses you could get up to 3 players at the same position.

For this May supplemental draft, in the **first round** the draft is done in **reverse order of the standings**, and then the order reverses (snakes) in each round after that. Then in the two later drafts the draft order is in the reverse order of the standings in **all** 3 rounds. The standings through games of 5/3/09 (week 4) are used to determine draft order (so the order shown now on the www draft results page **will** change when the week 4 game report goes up.) For one year leagues **ties** are broken in the first round by having the higher number team among the tied teams getting to go first. For continuing leagues the tie-breaker flip flops each year - this year it is the higher numbered team that 'wins' the tie-breaker in continuing leagues.

Draft results will be included with the 5th week's reports (games thru May 10th) with the new players automatically being added to your 'taxi squad' for the week 5 games

Have a great week! - Jeff Barton