



DRAFT STRATEGIES FOR BEGINNERS

Written by

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Here is a great tool for beginners! I received this email just the other day from someone just starting out in the world of Fantasy Baseball. I thought this would be a fantastic tool for a beginner who needs some basic direction and guidance. Since Fantasy Baseball Express services experienced players as well as beginners, we like to include helpful information for everyone.

Need a second opinion on a trade?

Question: *How do you decide if you should accept or reject a trade offer? How do you send out fair trades to other people?*

Answer: Target yourself a specific player(s). First take a look at your roster and see where you can fill holes. Then, see where you can upgrade! Let's say you need power (HR/RBI) and you want Mark Teixeira who is an upgrade over Paul Konerko. Tex is a .300/35+HR/120+RBI guy. The other manager will need a player(s) that he feels make up for the loss of Tex, and Konerko is that guy. But, you'll also need to offer something else that the other manager needs to make up for the difference between Tex & Konerko. You need to offer a manager what he needs without hurting your own team...without losing stats. For example... he needs a 1B to replace the loss of Tex and a closer to fill a hole. You have 3 closers, let's say you have Mariano Rivera, Bobby Jenks and Joakim Soria and you can afford to let one go. Say your 1B is Paul Konerko. You would offer Konerko and Soria for Tex. Then, you can go to the waiver wire to add the extra player. Or, you can look for a useful player with upside that the other manager doesn't need as the second player in the deal. Always try to get that second player, especially if its someone who is better than anyone else you can get on the waiver wire.... That's how you do it!



Need help with your rankings?

Question: *How do you create rankings before the draft? Do you look at certain stats or something to create the rankings or lists of players you want to draft?*

Answer: I look at everything!!!! I already know all the players and what they do and are capable of...that's why I am The Fantasy Man. But for normal fantasy players, first look at last years stats, then look at age, then look at what other "experts" are saying. You should get a good sense at what every player is capable of. Specifically, with stats, look at the last two-three years and see if you can spot trends in a player. Maybe a certain player has decreased strikeouts three years in a row, and he's only 26. With age, for me, most players 29 or younger have some kind of upside or potential. I always rank younger players over older players in certain situations. For instance, Paul Konerko and Carlos Delgado will be cheap this year, but I'd rather have Konerko because he is younger. The other thing I look at is the team a player plays for. I'd rather draft Curtis Granderson who is young with potential over an even younger Nick Markakis who has more potential because Granderson plays for Detroit, an offensive juggernaut while Markakis has zero protection in the Baltimore lineup. Both players rank close together and while Markakis has a higher ceiling, Granderson does it all and has have a bit more value especially in H2H leagues.



Need some waiver wire help?

Question: *How do you figure out who to add, and who to drop during the season?*

Answer: Depends on my needs. If my 1B gets hurt, I'm scouring the waiver wire for the best available 1B. I'm looking for an available player that plays everyday and has a potential to be solid. I'm also looking for players I can buy low and stash on my bench and then use as trade bait when their value gets higher. Lastly, I scour the waiver wire for young players or prospects I can stash for when they are called up or I grab and stash them just as they get called up. You never know when you'll pick up the next Pujols!

Draft Strategies?

Question: *What's the most basic draft strategy for snake drafts?*

Answer: For starters, never throw away a category. For example, some managers don't draft closers, they punt the saves category at the draft in hopes they can pick one up later. That's a big no-no. Why start the season already down a category?? Also, I personally like to draft for categories! Make sure you have players that represent tops in certain categories. You need at least two top 35+ HR guys and one 50+sb guy to really rip it up. Then, grab players who do it all to add to those categories. Also, check out the the other Draft Tools on Draft Strategies we have listed in the Draft Guide....

Advice on overall Team Management?

Question: *How do manage a team? How do you make it the best it can possibly be?*

Answer: Follow everything I wrote above.....then, check up on your team daily! Be active!

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