

The Peer 2 Peer University
Roto 5X5 Snake Drafting 101
Syllabus

Course Organizers: Andy Friedman & Charlie Danoff

Week 1: 25 April ~ 1 May 2011

* Categories

** 5 for Hitting: RBIs, Average, Runs, Home-runs, Steals (with examples)

*** Average is kinda fluky. Very hard to predict based on last season's #'s.

**** Aaron Hill average dropped from '09 to '10, but homers stayed. Except for rare occasions like Ichiro.

*** Speed and power rarely diminish from year 2 year.

** 5 for Pitching: Wins, strikeouts, ERA, whip, saves

*** ERA is equivalent to batting average in pitching terms. Wins are also fluky, b/c a lot of it isn't in the players hands.

*** Whip & K's are best indicators of a pitcher's work. If you're good at those you're likely to win. True indicators of a player's work.

*** Matt Kane's whip is under 2. He won a few games in '08 and '09 then last year he won a bunch.

* Rankings?

** Hitting more important than pitching, especially early because hitters are more consistent than pitchers. They can affect their own statistical numbers more than pitchers can. More control (pitchers can't affect wins).

** Every year a lot of middling pitchers become good pitchers.

** Injuries affect pitchers more than they do hitters.

** Disclaimer: Do not over-rate relievers. Closers are 1 category helpers. Can help your WHIP & ERA, but can't carry your team. Do not draft a closer b4 the 8th or 9th round. On the other hand, unless you chose to forget saves, make sure grab at least 2 closers to keep you in contention.

** What is a top player? = 5 category helper. Want #1 pick to be a *top* contributor in all 5 categories i.e. Pujols is a triple crown threat every year and still manages to steal 10 to 20 bases.

** Off-season movement. The line-up around the person (when you draft McCutcheon from Pittsburgh not a lot of help, but Arod will always have people on base). At the same time don't overrate a change of scenery. Look at JD Drew going to Boston and his numbers drop. Goes both ways, can't overrate it.

** Rookies: don't overrate them, more than likely he won't live up to your expectations. Not like other sports ... the change is huge from college to pro, might as well be a whole other game. Especially be wary of rookie pitchers. They have a huge tendency to be over-

The Peer 2 Peer University
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rated. More than often its an underwhelming performance.

HW: Write out your top 30 players and post it in the forum.

Video Lecture ?

How to make this fun?

* Introduction to drafting philosophy: Who to draft in round 1 and why?

Week 2: 2 May ~ 8 May 2011

* Tiers

* Helps you balance out your drafting strategy, more comfy drafting an 4th tier outfielder later when you need a shortstop.

* Position

** Shouldn't be less than 3, nor more than 5.

** Group by strengths, e.g. Chase Utley, Robinson Cano & Ian Kinsler ... compared to Brandon Phillips, Rickie Weeks, Dan Uggla

*** 5 category contributors vs. 4-cat

*** 5 tier contributor w/injury risk i.e. Rickie Weeks last year w/o injuries he was first tier

*** Person with a really good offensive team around is better than a more talented player w/worse ppl around him.

*** Position scarcity: Someone on a very shallow position i.e. zHanley Ramirez, because after the top 4 - 5 shortstops it really drops considerably. Same as with 2nd base. Top shortstops are more valuable than top outfielders or first basemen, because the second tier of first-baseman is way better than the second tier of scare positions. If you don't drop a top 3 or 4 catcher (5 or 6 rounds), don't draft one till the last 5. Very rarely do people pick-up back-up catchers, so don't worry in a ten team league you're gonna have a top-10 catcher.

*** Notes:

**** Take 1st baseman w/in 1st 10 rounds

**** Take pitcher until 1st 10 rounds

**** Don't wait on second baseman and shortstops.

** How do you do your tiers? paper? Spreadhseet? ... more important than looking cool is being to use in time-sensitive draft

HW: Tier your positions.

Week 3: 9 May ~ 15 May 2011

* Draft Itself

The Peer 2 Peer University
Roto 5X5 Snake Drafting 101
Syllabus

* Flexible strategy: in a league w/no pre-determined draft slotting need to be prepared to change at a moment's notice. diff strategy @ end vs. middle (drafting every 10 picks? 20 picks?) if you're a bookend you gotta pay much more attention to your tiering system.

* Watch out for trends, when ppl are taking large amounts of 1 category in a row ... jump on? stick to your strategy? really tied-in to your tiers and position scarcity ... can you wait 20 picks? maybe better to do position scarcity than best player available

* Bench:

** Not more than 3-4 players max. More imp 2 keep extra pitchers than extra hitting.

More extra pitchers can get more extra starts. Bench offensive player 1 guy you can move in ... pick a position you don't already have a back-up (if you have 2 second basemen, get a shortstop).

** Don't draft relievers for your bench.

* Late round

** Sleepers

** Rookies

** Who do you think will be good?

** There will be turnover, last 5 rounds are players most likely to be dropped or change out. If you're gonna take a risk, do later in the draft so it hurts you less.

HW: 5 round mock draft

Week 4: 16 May ~ 22 May 2011

Playing

* Keep your relievers always playing

Syllabus Changelog

Version 0.2 :: 12 April 2011 - Implemented changes from Monday night meeting: shorten to four weeks and write-out the first three weeks.

Version 0.1 :: 07 April 2011 – Started the syllabus and gave rough ideas for the first six weeks.