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 **WeightWatchers' Contributor**


Sports Stack

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kylestack
In Montana – 85 and sunny.
7/25/2011 6:02 PM

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[pedrogomezjr](#) Thank you so much, evryone for your wonderful feedback and comments on my blog and my wall!!
11/3/2011 12:57:42 PM

[devjfl1 \(jeff\)](#) You all MUST read my latest blog! ANOTHER WEIGHT WATCHER SUPERSTAR!!!!
11/3/2011 10:52:24 AM

[melissa lishner](#) Mom's out of ICU!
11/3/2011 9:57:47 AM

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[devjfl1 \(jeff\)](#) wrote on [devjfl1 \(ieff\)'s blog](#).

[devjfl1 \(jeff\)](#) posted a

NBA Players In Risky Situation

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Written by [kylestack](#) on 10/11/2011 1:06 PM

One consequence of the NBA lockout is that many of the league's players can't afford to sign contract offers from international teams. Of course, neither can the offering teams, which are located predominantly in Western Europe, Australia and eastern Asia. The players can't afford to do it from a health perspective; teams find it difficult to pay for their high insurance premiums. It's a demoralizing situation for players as they seek leverage against NBA team owners in their ongoing labor negotiations.

I'll explain the players' side first. Many of these guys have expensive, long-term contracts which will be enforced whenever the players' union and the NBA agree on a new collective bargaining agreement. The contracts aren't torn up just because there's a lockout. However, a player's contract can be nullified if he suffers a career-damaging injury playing outside the NBA. (That's a common stipulation in NBA deals.) Players have to weigh whether the money and/or brand-enhancing attention they can get overseas is worth risking their NBA contract.

On the other hand, international teams are stuck determining if they can find insurance to cover players in case of a catastrophic injury. Milwaukee Bucks center Andrew Bogut, who according to HoopsHype.com has three years and nearly forty million left on his NBA contract, recently [had a deal nixed](#) with an Australian team because it couldn't afford his insurance. Teams are also struggling to offer players sufficient money. As in the U.S., sports teams throughout the world are making due in difficult economic conditions.

What this means for players is that the ones who need money must consider risking their health and their NBA contracts. The ones who don't need income wouldn't dare put themselves in the position of losing the NBA money they're owed. They'll remain stateside, as many other players are likely to do because of health risk and an inability to have their insurance covered. No basketball, no income, no options. I think that's right where NBA owners want them.

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