

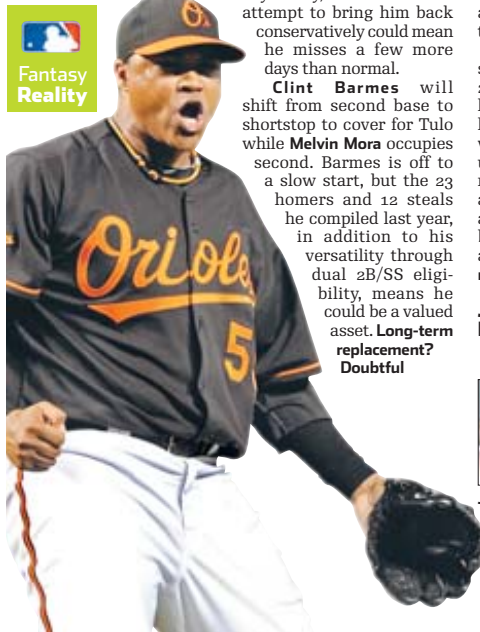
**SPORTS**

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# Injuries open unexpected doors

BY KYLE STACK  
Special to amNewYork

If you think fantasy baseball owners can't cry, just wait until one of their key players is injured. Once that occurs, the scramble is on for a replacement, even if it's the injured player's teammate who is taking over. Here are four such situations to track:



**Fantasy Reality**

**Troy Tulowitzki, SS, Colorado Rockies**

Tulo is battling another quadriceps injury, although the mild strain in his right quad isn't as serious as the torn left quad that knocked him out for 46 games in 2008. He's listed as day-to-day, but the Rockies' attempt to bring him back conservatively could mean he misses a few more days than normal.

Clint Barmes will shift from second base to shortstop to cover for Tulo while Melvin Mora occupies second. Barmes is off to a slow start, but the 23 homers and 12 steals he compiled last year, in addition to his versatility through dual 2B/SS eligibility, means he could be a valued asset. **Long-term replacement? Doubtful**



Tulowitzki

**Curtis Granderson, OF, Yankees**

A strained left groin is what has Granderson on the disabled list until late May/early June. In the meantime, Brett Gardner reclaimed center field from Granderson and Randy Winn and Marcus Thames are rotating in left field.

Thames hit .407 off southpaws through his first 27 at-bats this season, and his home run power makes him a decent play in leagues with five outfielders and two utility players. Winn is a career .285 hitter who's still adept on the base paths at 35 years old; he should be treated the same as Thames. **Long-term replacement? Doubtful**



Granderson

**Jim Johnson, RP, Baltimore Orioles**

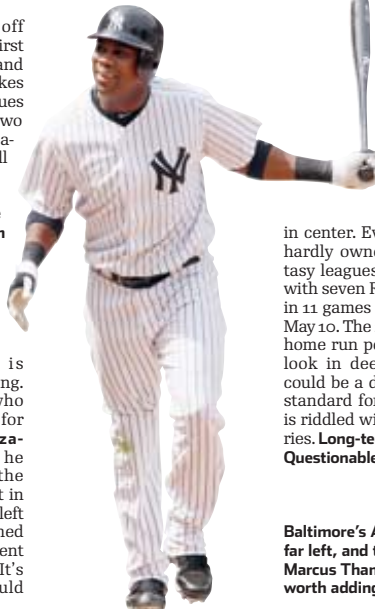
Even the closer for the anemic Orioles is worth owning. Johnson, who took over for Mike Gonzalez when he went on the disabled list in April with a strained left shoulder, has a strained ulnar collateral ligament in his right elbow. (It's the ligament that would



Johnson

require Tommy John surgery if torn.)

Alfredo Simon took over closer duty at the beginning of May and has closed both his save opportunities. While Koji Uehara is rumored to be in the running for save chances, Simon looks like a wise pickup with Gonzalez and Johnson likely out until at least June. **Long-term replacement? Probable**



**Carlos Beltran, OF, Mets**

A five-time All-Star, Beltran was expected to return by now after offseason arthroscopic surgery on his right knee, but recent reports have stated the star center fielder is experiencing more pain in the knee. That means Beltran is expected to miss several more weeks and Angel Pagan will continue to receive the lion's share of starts in center. Even though he's hardly owned in most fantasy leagues, Pagan hit .319 with seven RBIs and 10 runs in 11 games from April 27 to May 10. The 28-year-old with home run power is worth a look in deep leagues and could be a decent option in standard formats if a team is riddled with outfield injuries. **Long-term replacement? Questionable**



Beltran

Baltimore's Alfredo Simon, far left, and the Yankees' Marcus Thames may be worth adding. (PHOTOS:GETTY)

**NBA PLAYOFFS**

**Eastern Conference semifinals**

(1) Cleveland 2, (4) Boston 2  
Cavaliers 101, Celtics 93 • Celts 104, Cavs 86 • Cavs 124, Celts 95 • Celts 97, Cavs 87 • at Cavs, late last night • Tomorrow: at Celts, 8 p.m. **ESPN** • Sun., if necessary: at Cavs, 3:30 p.m. **ABC**

(2) Orlando def. (3) Atlanta, 4-0

**Western Conference semifinals**

(3) Phoenix def. (7) San Antonio, 4-0  
(1) L.A. Lakers def. (5) Utah, 4-0

**Western Conf. Finals**

(1) L.A. Lakers vs. (3) Phoenix  
Mon.: at Lakers, 9 p.m. **TNT** • Wed.: at Lakers, 9 p.m. **TNT**

**NHL PLAYOFFS**

**Eastern Conference semifinals**

(4) Pittsburgh 3, (8) Montreal 3  
Pens 6, Habs 3 • Habs 3, Pens 1 • Pens 2, Habs 0 • Habs 3, Pens 2 • Pens 2, Habs 1 • Habs 4, Pens 3 • Today: at Pens, 7 p.m. **VS**

(6) Boston 3, (7) Philadelphia 2  
Bruins 5, Flyers 4, OT • Bruins 3, Flyers 2 • Bruins 4, Flyers 1 • Flyers 5, Bruins 4, OT • Flyers 4, Bruins 0 • Today: at Flyers, 8 p.m. **VS**

**Western Conference semifinals**

(1) San Jose def. (5) Detroit, 4-1  
(2) Chicago 3, (3) Vancouver 2  
Canucks 5, Blackhawks 1 • Hawks 4, Canucks 2 • Hawks 5, Canucks 2 • Hawks 7, Canucks 4 • Canucks 4, Hawks 1 • at Canucks, late last night • Tomorrow, if necessary: at Hawks, 8 p.m. **VS**

Last night's Nationals-Mets game ended too late for this edition.

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