



## WHAT SHOULD THE MANAGER DO?

**Baseball** is a game of strategy, and managers use numbers to decide their strategy. One group of numbers that they look to is the “splits” or “lefty-righty.” For batters, splits show how well the batter does against right-handed pitchers and left-handed pitchers. Pitchers also have split statistics, showing how well they do against right-handed batters and left-handed batters. Most batters do better against opposite-handed pitchers (for example, a right-handed batter would have a better average against a lefty).

Here’s a table showing a group of batters and their batting averages against right-handed pitchers (RHP) and left-handed pitchers (LHP). The letters next to the players’ names are for right-handed or left-handed.

PLAYER	vs. RHP	vs. LHP
Trent (R)	.223	.314
Pete (L)	.279	.246
Wade (R)	.250	.306

If you were the manager, and you could choose one of these batters to face a right-handed pitcher, who should you choose?





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Let's make this tougher! This is the lineup for the Nighthawks, listed in its batting order. You are the manager for the Eagles.

ORDER	PLAYER	vs. RHP	vs. LHP
1	Trent (R)	.223	.314
2	Pete (L)	.279	.246
3	Wade (R)	.250	.306
4	Percy (R)	.276	.299
5	Toby (L)	.300	.283
6	Micah (L)	.257	.262
7	Vicente (R)	.212	.253
8	Eldon (R)	.240	.249

1. Would you choose a righty or a lefty to start the game against the Nighthawks?
2. There is one out in the 7th inning, and you can bring in a new pitcher to face two batters: Toby and Micah. Would you call in the lefty or the righty?
3. It's crunch time! You are starting the 9th inning with a new pitcher to face three batters: Wade, Percy and Toby. Are you choosing the lefty or the righty?
4. Which Nighthawks player has the biggest difference between his splits? Who has the smallest difference?

