

Basketball Strike

1. Adjective
2. Acronym
3. Noun
4. Plural Noun
5. Verb
6. Plural Noun
7. Verb
8. Verb Ending In Ing
9. Verb Ending In Ing
10. Verb Ending In Ing
11. Verb
12. Adjective
13. Preposition
14. Preposition
15. Adjective
16. Preposition
17. Adverb

Basketball Strike

At 4 p.m. Saturday, two groups of _____Adjective_____adversaries will gather once more around a hotel conference table and try to settle the _____Acronym_____. _____Noun_____ - if they can only hold off the agitating _____Plural_____ noun_____behind them.

This critical meeting will _____Verb_____against a backdrop of ultimatums, _____Plural noun_____and posturing by hardliners on both sides. The immense pressure could force N.B.A. and union officials to make a deal, or _____Verb_____any chance they have, _____Verb ending in ing_____the 2011-12 season.

"You know, hope springs eternal,"; Billy Hunter, the executive director of the players union, said Thursday.

But that was before disenchanted constituencies of owners and players began _____Verb ending in ing_____to undermine a deal.

A group of players is _____
Verb ending in ing a drive to _____
Verb the union if it accepts any deal that reduces
the players'; share of revenue below 52.5 percent.

The league is facing an equal threat from a group of 10 to 14 owners - led by Charlotte's Michael Jordan - who
are _____
Adjective to cap the players at 50 percent, according to a person who has spoken _____
Preposition
the owners. The hardliners are expected to reiterate that stance when all 29 owners meet Saturday morning in
Manhattan, about six hours before the bargaining session.

The negotiations will be guided once more _____
Preposition the federal mediator George H. Cohen, who agreed
to return after a _____
Adjective three-day session last month. Cohen reached _____
Preposition to both sides
earlier in the week.

Saturday's session will be the 21st since the lockout began, and if talks fail it might be the last for a long time.

The league has already canceled a month of games and is nearing the point where it could postpone the season

_____ Adverb _____.