

Justin's Sleeper Week 5, 2026 — Optimized Lineup and Start/Sit Calls

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Start LaPorta at TE, move Kittle to FLEX, keep Downs at WR, and bench Aaron Jones. Use Diggs in the second FLEX unless Evans' rib injury is satisfactorily cleared before the early Sunday games. This recommendation is for Justin's **Clanker Army**, roster 8 in **Hooey Boys**, using its actual Sleeper roster and scoring settings. It is an October 5 decision sheet for games October 8–12—not a claim that final Week 5 injury reports are already available. All deadlines below are Eastern time.

1. The Call and the Scoring That Drives It

The recommended **lower-risk lineup projects 142.26 points**, versus **139.96** for the retrieved starting lineup: a **2.30-point improvement**. If Evans is cleared for a normal role, replacing Diggs with Evans raises the conditional total to **144.18**, a **4.22-point improvement**. Those are scoring-adjusted statistical estimates, not injury-weighted forecasts or guaranteed results.

This is the eight-team 2026 league **1389736300701057024**, owned through **HATCCH**. The earlier HAATCH/Marovets retrieval was a different account and is not used here. Week 5 pairs Clanker Army against roster 7, **harolding her fannin**.

The legal starting structure is **QB / RB / RB / WR / WR / TE / FLEX / FLEX / K / DEF**, with five bench slots and one IR slot. FLEX accepts RB, WR or TE, so using two tight ends is legal. Scoring is **full PPR, without a TE premium**: passing yards 0.04, passing touchdowns 4, interceptions -1; rushing and receiving yards 0.1, touchdowns 6; lost fumbles -2. Kicker and defense estimates use the league's own scoring rather than generic PPR totals.

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{"rows":[{"lineup":"Retrieved starters","points":139.958},{"lineup":"Recommended: Diggs FLEX","points":142.261},{"lineup":"Evans cleared: Evans FLEX","points":144.179}], "spec":{"annotations":[{"kind":"line_y","label":"Retrieved lineup","y":139.958}], "format":{"decimals":2,"unit":"pts"},"insight":"LaPorta replacing Jones adds 2.30 projected points; cleared Evans replacing Diggs adds another 1.92.", "kind":"cartesian","referenceLines":[{"label":"Retrieved lineup","y":139.958}], "source":"Sleeper Week 5 statistical projections, recalculated with Hooey Boys scoring; October 5, 2026", "title":"Two tight ends improve the lineup; Evans adds conditional upside", "type":"bar","x":"lineup","y":["points"]}}
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2. Recommended Starter for Every Slot

Enter this lineup now; make the Evans upgrade only when the availability conditions below are met. Matchups and kickoffs come from the collected NFL Week 5 schedule; projections come from Sleeper's player-level statistical estimates recalculated under this league's rules.

Slot	Start	Week 5 matchup	Kickoff ET	Projected points	Start/sit reasoning
QB	Josh Allen	Buffalo at Rams	Mon Oct 12, 8:15 PM	22.55	Leads Herbert by 6.99. Four-point passing TD scoring does not erase his advantage. No matchup-based reason in the gathered evidence supports reversing it.
RB1	Bijan Robinson	Atlanta vs Baltimore	Sun Oct 11, 8:20 PM	22.36	Highest-projected owned RB. Start against Baltimore rather than reacting to opponent reputation without supporting efficiency data.
RB2	Jeremiyah Love	Arizona vs Detroit	Sun Oct 11, 4:25 PM	15.69	Projects 13.72 carries, 65.38 rushing yards and 3.20 receptions. His receiving contribution matters in full PPR; leads Jones by 5.50.
WR1	Michael Wilson	Arizona vs Detroit	Sun Oct 11, 4:25 PM	15.40	Projects 8.69 targets, 4.89 catches and 68.50 receiving

					yards. Best projected owned Week 5 WR; move him out of FLEX to secure a WR slot.
WR2	Josh Downs	Indianapolis at Pittsburgh	Sun Oct 11, 1:00 PM	11.89	Leads Diggs by 0.68. Small advantage, but enough to keep Downs at WR and preserve the later Evans decision in FLEX.
TE	Sam LaPorta	Detroit at Arizona	Sun Oct 11, 4:25 PM	12.49	Projects 4.73 catches and 53.33 receiving yards. Leads Kittle by 0.94; start both rather than treating TE eligibility as a reason to bench LaPorta.
FLEX1	Stefon Diggs	Washington vs Giants	Sun Oct 11, 1:00 PM	11.22	Default while Evans' ribs remain uncertain. Projects 4.03 catches and 47.86 yards; leads Jones by 1.03. Replace with cleared Evans before Diggs locks.

FLEX2	George Kittle	San Francisco at Seattle	Sun Oct 11, 4:25 PM	11.56	Higher projection than Jones by 1.37. Eligible at FLEX; no TE premium is needed to justify starting him.
K	Brandon Aubrey	Dallas vs Tampa Bay	Thu Oct 8, 8:15 PM	9.62	Only owned kicker. Keep him; no available waiver alternative was evaluated, so there is no evidence-backed streaming upgrade.
DEF	Houston Texans	Houston at Tennessee	Sun Oct 11, 1:00 PM	9.49	Only owned defense. Start the available league-scored option; this is not a verified ranking against unexamined waiver defenses.

The two main changes from the retrieved lineup are **LaPorta in for Jones** and **Wilson from FLEX to WR, with Diggs moved to FLEX**. Kittle moves from TE to FLEX. The Wilson/Diggs reshuffle does not itself create points; it makes the injury contingency easier to execute.

3. Every Bench and IR Decision

Player	Projection	Call	What changes the call
Mike Evans	13.13	Conditional start; bench by default	Start over Diggs if credible Week 5 reporting supports

			availability and a normal role before 1 PM Sunday. Rib concerns make the extra 1.92 projected points insufficient reason to leave an unprotected late start.
Ladd McConkey	12.06	Sit pending foot update	If Evans remains doubtful and McConkey is cleared without a reported workload limit before 1 PM Sunday, McConkey can replace Diggs. His advantage is only 0.85, so do not chase it through unresolved injury risk.
Aaron Jones	10.19	Sit; first RB injury substitute	Replace an unavailable Robinson or Love while Jones is still unlocked before 1 PM Sunday. Also available as an early FLEX fallback if more than one receiver/TE becomes unavailable.
Justin Herbert	15.55	Sit; Allen insurance	Use only if Allen has a meaningful availability problem resolved before Herbert's Sunday 4:05 PM kickoff. Do not bench Allen merely because he plays Monday.
Jordan Addison	8.77	Sit; emergency receiver depth	Use if earlier-ranked options become unavailable. He plays at 1 PM, so he cannot

			rescue a late inactive after kickoff.
A.J. Brown — IR	Not usable	Keep on IR; do not start Week 5	The collected report identifies Week 6 as his earliest IR return and only a hoped-for return. Week 5 is not a viable activation scenario.

McConkey's database **Out** flag needs context: the collected October 4 report rules him out of the remainder of **Week 4**, after aggravating his foot. It does **not** establish that he is out for Week 5. Conversely, a nonzero projection is not proof that he will play.

Evans' collected reporting describes a rib injury, including fractured-rib concerns; ESPN records him playing through it in Week 4 with **five catches on eight targets for 76 yards**. That establishes recent participation, not Week 5 clearance. No final Week 5 practice or inactive determination was established by the Monday evidence.

4. Injury Contingencies and the Deadline That Matters

The main injury decision is before 1 PM Sunday—not when Evans' late-game inactive list appears. Diggs, Jones and Addison will already be locked by then.

Trigger	Swap or fallback	Last usable deadline
Evans cleared for a normal role	Evans replaces Diggs at FLEX; leave Wilson and Downs at WR	Before Sun Oct 11, 1 PM
Evans unresolved; McConkey cleared without a reported limit	McConkey replaces Diggs at FLEX if choosing his modest projection edge	Before Sun Oct 11, 1 PM to avoid losing Diggs as fallback
Evans and McConkey both unresolved	Keep Diggs. Do not leave either injured receiver in the lineup merely to wait for later news	Sun Oct 11, 1 PM
Kittle unavailable or concerning before early lock	Keep LaPorta at TE; retain Diggs and use Jones at the other FLEX if needed	Before Sun Oct 11, 1 PM
LaPorta unavailable or concerning before early lock	Kittle returns to TE; use Diggs plus Jones at FLEX if needed	Before Sun Oct 11, 1 PM
Love unavailable or concerning	Jones to RB2; preserve the existing healthy FLEX choices	Before Sun Oct 11, 1 PM

Robinson develops meaningful availability concerns	Jones to RB1; do not wait until Sunday-night inactives with no owned late RB replacement	Before Sun Oct 11, 1 PM
Allen develops meaningful availability concerns	Herbert to QB	Before Sun Oct 11, 4:05 PM
Aubrey or Houston becomes unavailable	An eligible waiver replacement is required; no owned substitute exists	Before Thu 8:15 PM for K; Sun 1 PM for DEF

If you choose to wait on Evans using a healthy, unused McConkey as late insurance, decide **before 4:05 PM**, when McConkey locks. Evans kicks off at 4:25 PM. This narrower route is viable only if McConkey is himself cleared; it is not the default recommendation.

A late surprise inactive for Kittle or LaPorta can also leave no guaranteed healthy, unused owned substitute. Check both before the early lock. If uncertainty remains, take the early fallback or obtain a confirmed eligible late replacement; no specific waiver player has been verified here.

5. Confidence, Limits and Sources

The strongest calls are Allen over Herbert, Robinson and Love over Jones, and Wilson at WR. The marginal calls are Downs over Diggs and McConkey over Diggs if healthy. The Evans decision is primarily an **availability decision**, not a disagreement about his healthy projection.

Matchup information here establishes opponent, venue and timing. It does not claim uncollected defensive rankings, weather, betting totals or expected coverage. Projections are recalculated point estimates; they do not supply reliable playing probabilities, outcome ranges or a matchup win probability. No roster changes have been submitted, and no opponent-lineup comparison is needed to justify the owned-player upgrade.

Sources collected for this recommendation:

- **League and roster:** [Sleeper league settings](#), [rosters](#), [Week 5 matchup](#), and [player database](#).
- **Projection inputs:** [Sleeper Week 5 projections](#), supplemented by the collected player-level responses. League scoring was applied to statistical components rather than accepting generic displayed fantasy points.
- **Opponents and kickoff windows:** [NFL Week 5 schedule](#).
- **Availability:** [McConkey's Week 4 foot report](#), [Brown's earliest-return report](#), and [Evans' ESPN player report](#).

6. Execute This Week

1. **Now:** Enter the ten starters in Section 2. Keep Brown on IR. Bench Evans, McConkey, Jones, Herbert and Addison.

2. **Thursday, October 8:** Confirm Aubrey is available and in the K slot before **8:15 PM**.
3. **Friday–Saturday:** Read final practice designations for Evans and McConkey; also check the remaining starters. A stale Week 4 designation is not a Week 5 verdict.
4. **Sunday, October 11, by 12:45 PM:** Make the Evans/Diggs decision and resolve any RB or TE risk that requires Jones or Addison. Save changes **before 1 PM**.
5. **Sunday, by 3:45 PM:** Resolve any Allen/Herbert concern before Herbert's **4:05 PM** lock. Confirm the late-afternoon starters and any McConkey contingency.
6. **Sunday evening and Monday:** Confirm Robinson and Allen at their respective kickoff windows. Do not assume an early bench player remains swappable after his game starts.

Default if no clearer injury information arrives: Allen; Robinson and Love; Wilson and Downs; LaPorta; Diggs and Kittle; Aubrey; Houston.