

FANTASY BASEBALL DRAFTOLOGY 2009

The best fantasy — and non-fantasy — baseball coverage anywhere

A collective presentation of
FantasyDrafthelp.com, The FDH Lounge & Sportsology
 March 5, 2009 Rick Morris/Jason Jones/Russ Cohen

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The FDH Draft Philosophy: Win By Obtaining Value With Every Pick!

We at FantasyDrafthelp.com always emphasize the wisdom of our VIP approach to drafting: information and process lead to value. Of course, value is the single most important component of drafting or auctions. Even in the fantasy industry, this point is often overlooked. In most cases, titles are won by patiently accruing value throughout a draft or auction. During the Information stage, fantasy owners compile information about players at individual positions. Process involves comparison of players across positions. We put a tremendous amount of hard work into our draft board, and you do as well. As such, you need to trust the fruits of these labors and adhere to your draft board as much as possible. The surest way to be able to extract maximum value is to prepare extensively ahead of time and

FantasyDrafthelp.com Top 72 Regardless of Position

1 Hanley Ramirez	19 Jake Peavy	37 Jonathan Papelbon	55 Curtis Granderson
2 Albert Pujols	20 Brandon Webb	38 Prince Fielder	56 Nick Markakis
3 David Wright	21 Johan Santana	39 Adrian Gonzalez	57 Brian Roberts
4 Matt Holliday	22 Brian McCann	40 Dan Uggla	58 Ryan Doumit
5 Jose Reyes	23 Brandon Phillips	41 Aramis Ramirez	59 Mike Napoli
6 Josh Hamilton	24 Jimmy Rollins	42 Josh Beckett	60 Rafael Furcal
7 Ryan Braun	25 Alexei Ramirez	43 Chipper Jones	61 Carlos Lee
8 Evan Longoria	26 Geovany Soto	44 Aubrey Huff	62 Troy Tulowitzki
9 Miguel Cabrera	27 Alfonso Soriano	45 Joe Nathan	63 Michael Young
10 Tim Lincecum	28 Dustin Pedroia	46 Carl Crawford	64 J.J. Hardy
11 Lance Berkman	29 Mark Teixeira	47 Jhonny Peralta	65 Joe Mauer
12 Carlos Beltran	30 Kevin Youkilis	48 Roy Halladay	66 Vladimir Guerrero
13 Grady Sizemore	31 Cole Hamels	49 Francisco Rodriguez	67 Jason Bay
14 Chase Utley	32 David Ortiz	50 Brad Lidge	68 B.J. Upton
15 Ian Kinsler	33 Russell Martin	51 Mariano Rivera	69 Dan Haren
16 Carlos Quentin	34 Victor Martinez	52 Joakim Soria	70 John Lackey
17 Ryan Howard	35 CC Sabathia	53 Stephen Drew	71 Derek Jeter
18 Manny Ramirez	36 Justin Morneau	54 MARK DEROSA	72 Matt Kemp

then refrain from jumping around on the board on Draft Day. Approach the draft with an actuarial mindset, determined to squeeze maximum value out of every pick, and you will be poised for success.

even	Starting Pitchers	Exp	Mix \$	Sing \$	UQB	Rk	ERA	Rk	WH	Rk	K	Rk	W	Rk
1	Tim Lincecum	3	35	35	491	7	2.62	9	1.17	20	265	1	18	4T
2	Jake Peavy	5T	30	30	340	19	2.85	13	1.18	21T	166	26T	10	
3	Brandon Webb	5T	26	26	402	10	3.3	27	1.2	27T	183	16T	22	1T
4	Johan Santana	1	36	36	397	11	2.53	5	1.15	13T	206	5T	16	14T
5	Cole Hamels	5T	25	25	366	13	3.09	18T	1.08	5	196	11	14	25T
6	CC Sabathia	2	25	25	420	9	2.7	8	1.11	7T	251	2	17	7T
7	Josh Beckett	16T	24	24	266	35	4.03		1.19	25T	172	23T	12	43T
8	Roy Halladay 1X	4	24	24	467	8	2.78	12	1.05	3	206	5T	20	3
9	Dan Haren	8	20	20	339	20T	3.33	29	1.13	10T	206	5T	16	14T
10	John Lackey	14T	20	20	228	50T	3.75		1.23	34T	130		12	43T
11	Daisuke Matsuzaka	13	20	20	521	5	2.9	15	1.33		154	39	18	4T
12	Jon Lester	16T	20	20	256	41	3.21	24T	1.28	50T	152	41T	16	14T
13	Chad Billingsley	11	20	20	308	26	3.14	20	1.34		201	9	16	14T
14	Cliff Lee	9	19	19	558	4	2.54	6T	1.11	7T	170	25	22	1T
15	Roy Oswalt	12	19	19	291	30	3.54	39T	1.18	21T	165	28	17	7T
16	Francisco Liriano	25T	18	18	222		3.91		1.39		67		6	
17	Ervin Santana	10	18	18	339	20T	3.49	36T	1.12	9	214	4	16	14T
18	Scott Kazmir	20	18	18	318	24	3.49	36T	1.27	48T	166	26T	12	43T
19	Justin Verlander	31T	18	18	151		4.84		1.4		163	29T	11	
20	Erik Bedard	27	18	18	222		3.67	45	1.32		72		6	
21	Chris Young	33	18	18	209		3.96		1.29		93		7	
22	<u>Felix Hernandez 2X</u>	21	18	18	173		3.45	33T	1.39		175	21	9	
23	Zack Greinke	29T	17	17	232	48T	3.47	35	1.28	50T	183	16T	13	34T
24	Rich Harden	23	17	17	672	1	2.07	3	1.06	4	181	19	10	
25	Edinson Volquez	19	17	17	351	16	3.21	24T	1.33		206	5T	17	7T
26	Carlos Zambrano	24	17	17	202		3.91		1.3		130		14	25T
27	Adam Wainwright	31T	16	16	323	22	3.2	23	1.18	21T	91		11	
28	Yovani Gallardo	36	16	16	602	3	1.88	1	1.25	44	20		0	
29	Ricky Nolasco	25T	16	16	321	23	3.52	38	1.1	6	186	13T	15	21T
30	Brett Myers	46	15	15	166		4.55		1.38		163	29T	10	
31	Josh Johnson	40	15	15	243	45T	3.61	43	1.35		77		7	
32	James Shields	18	15	15	265	36	3.56	41	1.15	13T	160	33	14	25T
33	Jeremy Guthrie	41	15	15	200		3.63	44	1.23	34T	120		10	
34	Matt Cain	34T	15	15	108		3.76		1.37		186	13T	8	
35	<u>Matt Garza 3X</u>	43T	15	15	209		3.7	47	1.24	41T	128		11	
36	Joba Chamberlain	29T	14	14	361	14	2.6	8	1.26	45T	118		4	
37	Ryan Dempster	14T	14	14	348	17T	2.96	16	1.21	30T	187	12	17	7T
38	A.J. Burnett	28	13	13	273	32	4.07		1.34		231	3	18	4T

Evaluating Production Across a Spectrum: Lessons of "The Stat"

Our "Stat" category on our draft board calculates the standard deviation from the mean in all hitting categories and all pitching categories. In simple English, imagine a spectrum going across from left to right, with negative numbers on the left side, a "zero" in the middle and positive numbers on the right. We utilize this statistic for football, basketball, hockey and NASCAR as well as baseball. For baseball, we use all of the standard fantasy categories listed on the draft board to factor in for this statistical compilation. A player's performance in each category is plotted on one of these spectrums, with the most valuable players putting up most of their numbers on the most of their numbers on the positive side. Then, we add up the totals of every category, positive and negative. By using this tool, we can identify not merely how they performed, but how valuable their performances were in each category. Truly, this statistic serves as the ultimate baseline for the previous season's production.

Draft Board Decoder

The FantasyDrafthelp.com draft board contains all the relevant information you need right at your fingertips.

* Players are color-coded by their value by round in a 12-team draft. 1st round is gold, 2nd round silver, 3rd round bronze, 4th round orange, 5th round green and 6th round blue. Players in bold are eligible at two positions (bold plus caps means three positions).

* The "Exp" column shows how drivers rated on an "Experts' Draft Board" compilation of other leading industry sources. The "Stat" column shows how each player performed on our standard deviation from the mean statistic in 2008 (stat details to the right). If a league is considered stronger than the other one at this position, it will be have its initials listed (capital letters means much stronger, lower case means not so much).

* 5X5 2008 statistical categories are listed, along with rankings for each and rankings in the aforementioned "Stat" category.

TheFDH
Lounge.com

even	Starting Pitchers	Exp	Mix \$	Sing \$	UQB	Rk	ERA	Rk	WH	Rk	K	Rk	W	Rk
39	John Danks	37	13	13	248	44	3.32	28	1.23	34T	159	34	12	43T
40	Fausto Carmona		12	12	0		5.44		1.63		58		8	
41	Gil Meche		12	12	195		3.98		1.32		183	16T	14	25T
42	Chris Volstad		12	12	264	37	2.88	14	1.33		52		6	
43	<u>Jonathan Sanchez 4X</u>		12	12	171		5.01		1.45		157	38	9	
44	Derek Lowe	38	11	11	304	29	3.24	26	1.13	10T	147	43T	14	25T
45	Hiroki Kuroda		11	11	189		3.73		1.22	33	116		9	
46	Kevin Slowey		11	11	262	38T	3.99		1.16	17T	123		12	43T
47	<u>Scott Baker 5X</u>	49	11	11	261	40	3.45	33T	1.18	21T	141	46	11	
48	Ted Lilly	43T	10	10	269	34	4.09		1.23	34T	184	15	17	7T
49	Jered Weaver	45	10	10	195		4.33		1.29		152	41T	11	
50	Justin Duchschere	39	10	10	517	6	2.54	6T	1	2	95		10	
51	Max Scherzer		10	10	249	43	3.05	17	1.23	34T	66		0	
52	Randy Johnson		10	10	228	50T	3.91		1.24	41T	173	22	11	
53	Wandy Rodriguez		9	9	232	48T	3.54	39T	1.31		131		9	
54	Gavin Floyd		9	9	243	45T	3.84		1.26	47	145	45	17	7T
55	Armando Galarraga		9	9	242	47	3.73		1.2	27T	126		13	34T
56	Joe Saunders	47T	9	9	279	31	3.41	32	1.21	30T	103		17	7T
57	David Price		9	9	638	2	1.93	2	0.93	1	12		0	
58	Clayton Kershaw		9	9	135		4.26		1.5		100		5	
59	Tommy Hanson		8	8	NA		NA		NA		NA		NA	
60	Mark Buehrle		8	8	186		3.79		1.34		140	47	15	21T
61	Scott Olsen		8	8	95		4.2		1.31		113		8	
62	<u>Paul Maholm 6X</u>		8	8	149		3.71	47T	1.28	50T	139	48T	9	
63	Oliver Perez		7	7	179		4.22		1.4		180	20	10	
64	Aaron Harang	42	7	7	49		4.78		1.39		153	40	6	
65	Tom Gorzelanny		7	7	0		6.66		1.81		67		6	
66	Javier Vazquez	50	7	7	196		4.67		1.32		200	10	12	43T
67	<u>Jair Jurrjens 7X</u>		7	7	195		3.68	46	1.37		139	48T	13	34T
68	Bartolo Colon		6	6	367	12	3.92		1.38		27		4	
69	Mike Pelfrey		6	6	171		3.72	50	1.36		110		13	34T
70	Andrew Miller		5	5	0		5.87		1.64		89		6	
71	Philip Hughes		5	5	0		6.62		1.71		23		0	
72	Johnny Cueto		5	5	158		4.81		1.41		158	35T	9	
73	Chien-Ming Wang	34T	5	5	219		4.07		1.32		54		8	
74	John Maine		5	5	196		4.18		1.35		122		10	
75	Joe Blanton		4	4	109		4.69		1.4		111		9	
76	Ubaldo Jimenez		4	4	180		3.99		1.44		172	23T	12	43T

2009 Don't Be That Guy!

^ Don't Be That Guy who forgets that power is the true separator at catcher, not batting average. That Guy is going to overbid for Joe Mauer — again!

^ Don't Be That Guy who overvalues unlikely 2008 success stories like Ryan Dempster. It's a new year — pay for what you get this year.

^ Don't Be That Guy who sleeps on (or holds unhealthy grudges against) last year's falloffs. Bargain shopping in the middle and late rounds can bring you a championship. So don't hate on Francisco Liriano!

^ Don't Be That Guy who enters the draft or auction with iron-clad gimmicks. Rotisserie category "punting"! Only \$1 apiece for all pitchers on the roster! All younger or all "proven" talent! The fact is that inflexible doctrines lead to failure, while nimble, think-on-your-feet reactive ability brings great success. Choose the latter approach and thank us when you're hoisting your trophy at the end of the year.

^ Don't Be That Guy who doesn't fully understand the nuances of your league's scoring system. Be fully prepared! Your choice of this draft guide is, frankly, an awesome start.

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even	Starting Pitchers	Exp	Mix \$	Sing \$	UQB	Rk	ERA	Rk	WH	Rk	K	Rk	W	Rk
77	Andy Sonnanstine		3	3	181		4.38		1.29		124		13	34T
78	Kenshin Kawakami		3	3	NA		NA		NA		NA		NA	
79	Anthony Reyes		3	3	305	27T	2.76	11	1.27	48T	25		4	
80	Matt Harrison		3	3	251	42	5.49		1.57		42		9	
81	Braden Loper		3	3	160		4.16		1.31		108		12	43T
82	Ben Sheets	22	3	3	309	25	3.09	18T	1.15	13T	158	35T	13	34T
83	Tim Hudson 8X		11	11	305	27T	3.17	22	1.16	17T	85		11	
al	Relief Pitchers	Exp	Mix \$	Sing \$	UQB	Rk	ERA	Rk	WH	Rk	K	Rk	Sv	Rk
1	Jonathan Papelbon	1	25	25	361	12	2.34	8	0.96	6	77	11T	41	4T
2	Joe Nathan	2	24	24	470	4	1.33	2	0.91	4	74	14	39	7T
3	Francisco Rodriguez	3	24	27	462	5T	2.24	7	1.29		77	11T	62	1
4	Brad Lidge	5T	24	27	544	3	1.95	6	1.23		92	3	41	4T
5	Mariano Rivera	4	24	24	597	2	1.4	3	0.67	1	77	11T	39	7T
6	Joakim Soria 1X	5T	24	24	440	8	1.6	5	0.86	2	66	19T	42	3
7	Jose Valverde	7	16	18	304	14	3.38		1.18	17	83	6T	44	2
8	Jonathan Broxton	13T	15	17	357	13	3.13	17T	1.17	15T	88	4	14	
9	Kerry Wood	10T	15	15	388	10	3.26		1.09	10	84	5	34	9T
10	Brian Fuentes	12	15	15	449	7	2.73	12	1.11	11T	82	8T	30	13T
11	B.J. Ryan	9	14	14	205	19	2.95	15	1.28		58		32	11
12	Matt Capps	13T	14	15	115		3.02	16	0.98	7	39		21	20
13	Bobby Jenks	8	14	14	0		2.63	10	1.11	11T	38		30	13T
14	Chad Qualls 2X	15T	14	15	201	20	2.81	13	1.08	9	71	15T	9	
15	Trevor Hoffman		9	10	222	16T	3.77		1.04	8	46		30	13T
16	Carlos Marmol	17T	9	10	462	5T	2.68	11	0.93	5	114	1	7	
17	Mike Gonzalez	17T	5	6	392	9	4.28		1.2	19	44		14	
18	Frank Francisco		9	9	386	11	3.13	17T	1.16	14	83	6T	5	
19	Grant Balfour		8	8	719	1	1.54	4	0.9	3	82	8T	4	
20	Francisco Cordero	10T	7	7	222	16T	3.33		1.41		78	10	34	9T
21	Brad Ziegler	19	6	6	0		1.06	1	1.17	15T	30		11	
22	Heath Bell		5	6	0		3.58		1.21	20T	71	15T	0	
23	Brian Wilson	15T	4	5	182		4.62		1.45		67	18	41	4T
24	Huston Street	20	4	5	181		3.73		1.21	20T	69	17	18	
25	Matt Lindstrom 3X		3	4	30		3.14	19	1.45		43		5	

2009 Sleepers

C: John Baker
1B: Billy Butler, Pablo Sandoval
2B: Mike Aviles, Howie Kendrick, Rickie Weeks
SS: Mike Aviles
3B: Alex Gordon
OF: Shin-Soo Choo, Carlos Gonzalez, Hunter Pence, Justin Upton, Chris Young, Delmon Young
DH: none
SP: Matt Cain, Fausto Carmona, Yovani Gallardo, Tommy Hanson, Philip Hughes, Josh Johnson, Ricky Nolasco, Jonathan Sanchez, Jered Weaver
RP: Grant Balfour, Jonathan Broxton, Chad Qualls

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www.fantasydrafthelp.com/depth_charts.html

nl	Catchers	Exp	Mix \$	Sing \$	UQB	Rk	Avg	Rk	HR	Rk	RBI	Rk	Runs	Rk	SB	Rk
1	Brian McCann	1	29	29	292	8	0.301	4	23	1T	87	2	68	4	5	5
2	Geovany Soto	3T	26	26	280	9	0.285	8	23	1T	86	3	66	6T	0	
3	Russell Martin	3T	25	25	256	10	0.28	10	13	10T	69	5T	87	2	18	1
4	Victor Martinez	5	25	25	161		0.278	12	2		35		30		0	
5	Ryan Doumit	7	22	22	342	5	0.318	2	15	8T	69	5T	71	3	2	
6	Mike Napoli	13	22	24	775	1	0.273	15	20	4	49	16T	39	18	7	4T
7	Joe Mauer 1X	2	20	22	404	3	0.328	1	9	15T	85	4	98	1	1	
8	John Baker		14	14	298	7	0.299	5	5		32		32		0	
9	Chris Iannetta	8	14	14	373	4	0.264	17	18	5	65	7T	50	10	0	
10	Bengie Molina	6	13	13	238	13	0.292	7	16	6T	95	1	46	13T	0	
11	Kelly Shoppach	14	13	15	434	2	0.261	18	21	3	55	13	67	5	0	
12	Jorge Posada	10T	13	15	184	19T	0.268	16	3		22		18		0	
13	A.J. Pierzynski	9	12	14	184	19T	0.281	9	13	10T	60	10	66	6T	1	
14	Matt Wieters		11	13	NA		NA		NA		NA		NA		NA	
15	Chris Snyder	15	10	10	313	6	0.237		16	6T	64	9	47	12	0	
16	Dioner Navarro	12	10	11	195	17	0.295	6	7	18T	54	14	43	16	0	
17	Ramon Hernandez 2X	15T	10	10	198	16	0.257	19	15	8T	65	7T	49	11	0	
18	Brandon Inge		6	8	143		0.205		11	14	51	15	41	17	4	
19	Jarrod Saltalamacchia		5	6	190	18	0.253		3		26		27		0	
20	Ivan Rodriguez 3X	17	3	4	117		0.276	13T	7	18T	35		44	15	10	2

2009 Overvalued Players

C: Joe Mauer

1B: Conor Jackson, James Loney

2B: none

SS: Derek Jeter, Michael Young

3B: Troy Glaus, Carlos Guillen, Mark Reynolds, Alex Rodriguez

OF: Pat Burrell, Jacoby Ellsbury, Ichiro, Conor Jackson, Randy Winn

DH: none

SP: A.J. Burnett, Ryan Dempster, Brandon Morrow, Ben Sheets, James Shields

RP: Heath Bell, Francisco Cordero, Bobby Jenks, Brian Wilson

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2009 Undervalued Players

C: John Baker, Mike Napoli, Matt Wieters

1B: none

2B: Aaron Hill

SS: Mike Aviles, Clint Barmes, Khalil Greene, Alexei Ramirez

3B: none

OF: Carl Crawford, Vernon Wells, Jayson Werth

DH: none

SP: Josh Beckett, Fausto Carmona, Yovani Gallardo, Matt Garza, Jeremy Guthrie, Josh Johnson, Francisco Liriano, Brett Myers, Justin Verlander, Chris Young

RP: Jonathan Broxton, Trevor Hoffman

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Offseason Movement Winners

Milton Bradley, A.J. Burnett, Pat Burrell, Brian Fuentes, Brandon Lyon, C.C. Sabathia, Mark Teixeira

Offseason Movement Losers

Edwin Jackson, J.J. Putz, John Smoltz, Huston Street, Javier Vazquez

nl	1B	Exp	Mix	\$	Sing	UQB	Rk	Avg	Rk	HR	Rk	RBI	Rk	Runs	Rk	SB	Rk
1	Albert Pujols	1	40	40	556	2	0.357	1	37	4T	116	6	100	5	7	5T	
2	Miguel Cabrera	2	36	38	284	10	0.292	12	37	4T	127	3	85	16	1		
3	Lance Berkman	4	35	35	381	4	0.312	4T	29	13T	106	10	114	1	18	1	
4	Ryan Howard	3	30	30	486	3	0.251		48	1	146	1	105	2	1		
5	Mark Teixeira	5	25	27	337	5	0.308	6	33	8	121	4	102	4	2		
6	Kevin Youkilis	9	25	27	329	7	0.312	4T	29	13T	115	7T	91	11	3		
7	Justin Morneau	6	25	27	270	12T	0.3	9T	23	19	129	2	97	6	0		
8	Prince Fielder	7T	25	25	228		0.276		34	7	102	11T	86	13T	3		
9	Adrian Gonzalez	7T	24	24	264	15T	0.279	19	36	6	119	5	103	3	0		
10	Aubrey Huff 1X	10T	24	26	247	19	0.304	7	32	9T	108	9	96	7T	4		
11	Derrek Lee	10T	18	18	187		0.291	13	20		90	18T	93	9	8	4	
12	Carlos Delgado	13	17	17	270	12T	0.271		38	3	115	7T	96	7T	1		
13	Carlos Pena	16	16	18	282	11	0.247		31	12	102	11T	76	18	1		
14	Adam Dunn		16	17	334	6	0.236		40	2	100	13	79	17	2		
15	Joey Votto	14	16	16	216		0.297	11	24	17T	84		69	20	7	5T	
16	Jorge Cantu	18	16	16	203		0.277	20	29	13T	95	16	92	10	6		
17	Garrett Atkins	12	15	15	203		0.286	16T	21		99	14	86	13T	1		
18	Chris Davis 2X	19T	14	16	263	17	0.285	18	17		55		51		1		
19	Pablo Sandoval		12	12	267	14	0.345	2	3		24		24		0		
20	Jason Giambi		11	13	308	8	0.247		32	9T	96	15	68	19	2		
21	Mike Jacobs		11	13	264	15T	0.247		32	9T	93	17	67		1		
22	Adam LaRoche		10	10	211		0.27		25	16	85		66		1		
23	Paul Konerko	19T	10	11	167		0.24		22	20	62		59		2		
24	Billy Butler		10	11	64.3		0.275		11		55		44		0		
25	James Loney 3X	15	10	10	130		0.289	14	13		90	18T	66		7	5T	
26	Hank Blalock		7	8	202		0.287	15	12		38		37		1		
27	Nick Swisher		7	8	148		0.219		24	17T	69		86	13T	3		
28	Casey Kotchman		6	6	150		0.272		14		74		65		2		
29	Conor Jackson	17	6	6	166		0.3	9T	12		75		87	12	10	2	
30	Chris Duncan		6	6	87		0.248		6		27		26		2		
31	Casey Blake		6	6	197		0.274		21		81		71	18	3		
32	Carlos Guillen		6	7	136		0.286	16T	10		54		68		9	3	
33	Jeff Baker		6	7	253	18	0.268		12		48		55		4		
34	Todd Helton		5	5	17.8		0.264		7		29		39		0		
35	Nick Johnson		5	5	155		0.22		5		20		15		0		
36	Chad Tracy		4	4	91.9		0.267		8		39		25		0		
37	Ryan Garko		3	3	180		0.273		14		90	18T	61		0		
38	Ryan Shealy 4X		3	3	750	1	0.301	8	7		20		12		0		

Injury Risk Management

Acceptable Risks: Josh Beckett, A.J. Burnett, Johnny Damon, Rafael Furcal, Randy Johnson, Chipper Jones, Victor Martinez, Magglio Ordonez, Carlos Quentin, Troy Tulowitzki, B.J. Upton, Chase Utley, Chris Young (pitcher), Ryan Zimmerman

Less Acceptable Risks: Hank Blalock, Eric Byrnes, Bartolo Colon, Nomar Garciaparra, Troy Glaus, Travis Hafner, Rich Harden, Jeremy Hermida, Nick Johnson, Hideki Matsui, Scott Rolen, C.C. Sabathia, Gary Sheffield, Chad Tracy, Ty Wigginton

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al	2B	Exp	Mix \$	Sing \$	UQB	Rk	Avg	Rk	HR	Rk	RBI	Rk	Runs	Rk	SB	Rk
1	Chase Utley	1	32	34	506	2	0.292	10	33	1	104	1	113	2	14	8T
2	Ian Kinsler	2	31	31	390	4	0.319	3	18	6	71	9	102	5	26	2
3	Brandon Phillips	4	28	30	267	10T	0.261		21	3T	78	6	80	11T	23	3
4	Alexei Ramirez	7	27	32	344	7	0.29	11T	21	3T	77	7	65	15	13	10T
5	Dustin Pedroia	3	26	26	321	8	0.326	1	17	7T	83	5	118	1	20	4
6	Dan Uggla	6	24	26	545	1	0.26		32	2	92	2	97	6	5	20
7	MARK DEROSA	9T	23	23	463	3	0.285	14	21	3T	87	4	103	4	6	18T
8	Brian Roberts 1X	5	23	23	267	10T	0.296	9	9	15T	57	12	107	3	40	1
9	Robinson Cano	8	16	16	180		0.271	17T	14	9T	72	8	70	14	2	
10	Howie Kendrick	13	16	16	206		0.306	5	3		37		43		11	12T
11	Jose Lopez	9T	15	15	230	13	0.297	8	17	7T	89	3	80	11T	6	18T
12	Kelly Johnson	9T	13	15	225	14T	0.287	13	12	11	69	10	86	10	11	12T
13	Rickie Weeks 2X	15	12	14	242	12	0.234		14	9T	46	18	89	9	19	5
14	Aaron Hill		10	11	102		0.263		2		20		19		4	
15	Mike Aviles	18	10	10	260	11	0.327	2	10	14T	51	16T	68	15	8	14T
16	Orlando Hudson	14	9	10	223	16	0.305	6T	8	19T	41	20T	54	18	4	
17	Placido Polanco	12	8	8	225	14T	0.307	4	8	19T	58	11	90	8	7	16T
18	Freddy Sanchez	20	7	7	174		0.271	17T	9	15T	52	13T	75	13	0	
19	Mark Ellis		6	6	165		0.233		12	12T	41	20T	55	16T	14	8T
20	Jeff Baker		6	7	358	6	0.268		12	12T	48	15T	55	16T	4	
21	Clint Barmes		6	7	208	19	0.29	11T	11	14	44	19	47	20	13	10T
22	Blake DeWitt		6	7	212	18	0.264		9	15T	52	13T	45		3	
23	Asdrubal Cabrera		4	4	216	17	0.259		6		47	17	48	19	4	
24	Mike Fontenot		3	3	360	5	0.305	6T	9	15T	40		42		2	
25	Kaz Matsui	17	3	3												
26	Maicer Izturis 3X		3	3	203		0.269	19T	3		37		44		11	12T
	DH	Exp	Mix \$	Sing \$	UQB	Rk	Avg	Rk	HR	Rk	RBI	Rk	Runs	Rk	SB	Rk
1	David Ortiz	1	25	25	358	1	0.264	4	23	2	89	2	74	2T	1	
2	Jim Thome	2	17	17	340	2	0.245	5	34	1	90	1	93	1	1	
3	Travis Hafner	3	13	13	63		0.197		5		24		21		1	
4	Jason Kubel		13	13	252	3	0.272	2	20	3	78	3	74	2T	0	
5	Hideki Matsui		12	12	227	5	0.294	1	9		45	5	43	5	0	
6	Gary Sheffield	4	10	10	200		0.225		19	4	57	4	52	4	9	1
7	Kila Ka'aihue	5T	5	5	NA		NA		NA		NA		NA		NA	

2009 Position Battle Overview

^ Even if Julio Lugo starts the year as the starter at shortstop in Boston, Jed Lowrie will take the job from him by mid-summer.

^ Because Melky Cabrera has superior pop to Brett Gardner, he'll have the upper hand on him in center field for the Yankees – and his ability to cover ground better than Nick Swisher means that most of Swish's at-bats will have to come elsewhere.

^ At least at the outset, Delmon Young is going to get the short end of the stick in terms of corner outfield at-bats with Denard Span and Michael Cuddyer currently ahead of him.

^ Gary Matthews will struggle to get enough at-bats in the crowded Angel outfield/DH picture.

^ Jarrod Saltalamacchia has an early lead at the Ranger catcher spot over fellow highly-touted youngster Taylor Teagarden.

^ Mike Gonzalez is showing signs of being able to hold off Rafael Soriano for the Atlanta closer's job.

^ Because there is never any upside for Florida in going with a veteran with a lower ceiling, Wes Helms will not be able to hold back uber-prospect Gaby Sanchez at first base.

^ David Murphy is being given every chance to take the Mets' left field job from Fernando Tatis, and he will probably succeed.

^ Adam Dunn won't get enough at-bats in the outfield to keep Nick Johnson from being marginalized at first base for D.C.

^ Chris Duncan will get at-bats at first base and outfield for St. Louis, but is realistically settling into a super-utility role.

^ Aaron Miles should be in a lead role at second base for the Cubs over Mike Fontenot.

^ Clint Barmes is the strong favorite at second base for Colorado over Ian Stewart and Jeff Baker. Meanwhile, Stewart and Carlos Gonzalez trail Seth Smith for the left field job.

NL	SS	Exp	Mix \$	Sing \$	UQB	Rk	Avg	Rk	HR	Rk	RBI	Rk	Runs	Rk	SB	Rk
1	Hanley Ramirez	1	41	41	462	2	0.301	6	33	1	67	7T	125	1	35	3
2	Jose Reyes	2	37	37	274	8	0.297	8	16	7	68	6	113	2	56	1
3	Jimmy Rollins	3	28	28	266	10	0.277	20T	11	11T	59	12	76	12	47	2
4	Alexei Ramirez	15	27	32	361	4	0.29	10T	21	4T	77	3	65	18	13	9T
5	Jhonny Peralta	5	24	28	272	9	0.276		23	3	89	1	104	3	3	
6	Stephen Drew	8	23	23	206	15T	0.291	9	21	4T	67	7T	91	7	3	
7	Rafael Furcal	10	22	22	602	1	0.357	1	5		16		34		8	14T
8	Troy Tulowitzki	7	21	21	179		0.263		8	19T	46	19T	48		1	
9	Michael Young	4	21	25	210	14	0.284	14	12	9T	82	2	102	4	10	13
10	J. Hardy	9	21	21	234	13	0.283	15T	24	2	74	4	78	10	2	
11	Derek Jeter 1X	6	20	23	205	17	0.3	7	11	11T	69	5	88	8	11	11T
12	Mike Aviles	17	10	13	260	11	0.327	2	10	14T	51	16T	68	15	8	14T
13	Miguel Tejada	11	10	10	194	20T	0.283	15T	13	8	66	9	92	6	7	16T
14	Khalil Greene 2X	20T	10	10	0		0.213		10	14T	35		30		5	
15	Clint Barmes		6	7	189		0.29	10T	11	11T	44		47		13	9T
16	Scott Hairston		6	6	237	12	0.248		17	6	31		42		3	
17	Edgar Renteria	16	5	5	194	20T	0.27		10	14T	55	14T	69	14	6	20T
18	Nomar Garciaparra		5	5	358	5	0.264		8	19T	28		24		1	
19	Asdrubal Cabrera		4	4	201	18	0.259		6		47	18	48		4	
20	Jed Lowrie	19	3	3	284	7	0.258		2		46	19T	34		1	
21	Ben Zobrist		3	3	368	3	0.253		12	9T	30		32		3	
22	Jerry Hairston Jr.		3	3	322	6	0.326	3	6		36		47		15	8
23	Maicer Izturis		3	3	196	19	0.269		3		37		44		11	11T
24	Brandon Wood 3X		3	3	-47		0.2		5		13		12		4	

Long-Term Keeper League Prospect Rankings

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. David Price (RHP, Tampa) | 26. Derek Holland (LHP, Texas) |
| 2. Clayton Kershaw (RHP, LAD) | 27. Kila Ka'aihue (1B, KC) |
| 3. Cameron Maybin (OF, Florida) | 28. Neftali Feliz (RHP, Texas) |
| 4. Matt Wieters (C, Balt) | 29. Buster Posey (C, SF) |
| 5. Tommy Hanson (RHP, Atl) | 30. Gordon Beckham (SS, ChiSox) |
| 6. Andrew McCutcheon (OF, Pit) | 31. Brett Wallace (3B, St L) |
| 7. Matt LaPorta (OF, Cle) | 32. Lars Anderson (1B, Bos) |
| 8. Wade Davis (RHP, Tampa) | 33. Justin Smoak (1B, Tex) |
| 9. Mat Gamel (3B, Mil) | 34. Jason Heyward (OF, Atl) |
| 10. Rick Porcello (RHP, Det) | 35. Brandon Wood (SS, LAA) |
| 11. Chase Headley (OF, SD) | 36. Tim Beckham (SS, Tampa) |
| 12. Trevor Cahill (RHP, Oak) | 37. Yonder Alonso (1B, Cincy) |
| 13. Madison Bumgardner (RHP, SF) | 38. Aaron Hicks (OF, Min) |
| 14. Pedro Alvarez (3B, Pit) | 39. Nolan Reimold (OF, Balt) |
| 15. Chris Tillman (RHP, Balt) | 40. Eric Matusz (RHP, Balt) |
| 16. Colby Rasmus (OF, St L) | 41. Jarrod Parker (RHP, Ariz) |
| 17. Jake Arrieta (RHP, Balt) | 42. David Huff (LHP, Cle) |
| 18. Kyle Blanks (1B, SD) | 43. Fernando Martinez (OF, NYM) |
| 19. Travis Snider (OF, Tor) | 44. Daniel Bard (RHP/CL, Bos) |
| 20. Carlos Santana (C, Cle) | 45. Eric Hosmer (1B, KC) |
| 21. Brett Anderson (LHP, Oak) | 46. Jhoulys Chacin (RHP, Col) |
| 22. Dexter Fowler (OF, Col) | 47. Nick Weglarz (OF, Cle) |
| 23. Vin Mazzaro (RHP, Oak) | 48. Logan Morrison (1B, Fla) |
| 24. J.P. Arencibia (C, Tor) | 49. Reid Brignac (SS, Tampa) |
| 25. Mike Moustakas (3B, KC) | 50 (TIE). Mike Stanton (OF, Fla)/Chris Volstad (RHP, Fla) |

2009 Prospect Rankings

1. Cameron Maybin (OF, Fla)
2. Clayton Kershaw (RHP, LAD)
3. Kenshin Kawakami (RHP, Atl)
4. Tommy Hanson (RHP, Atl)
5. Matt Wieters (C, Balt)
6. Chris Volstad (RHP, Fla)
7. Colby Rasmus (OF, St L)
8. David Price (RHP, Tampa)
9. Dexter Fowler (OF, Col)
10. Brandon Jones (OF, Atl)
11. Brandon Wood (SS, LAA)
12. Kila Ka'aihue (1B, KC)
13. Matt LaPorta (OF, Cle)
14. Reid Brignac (SS, Tampa)
15. Wade Davis (RHP, Tampa)

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2009 AL & NL Scarcity

[NOTE: The following players are starting-caliber fantasy performers worth more in single-league formats because of a relative scarcity of talent at that position.]

C: Victor Martinez, Joe Mauer, Mike Napoli

1B: Miguel Cabrera, Aubrey Huff, Justin Morneau, Mark Teixeira, Kevin Youkilis

2B: Brandon Phillips, Alexei Ramirez, Dan Uggla, Chase Utley

SS: Derek Jeter, Jhonny Peralta, Alexei Ramirez, Michael Young

3B: none (Kevin Youkilis is only worth more at 3B because he also has 1B eligibility and top-level 1B are rarer in the AL).

OF: Carlos Beltran, Milton Bradley, Ryan Braun, Eric Byrnes, Adam Dunn, Andre Ethier, Corey Hart, Brad Hawpe, Raul Ibanez, Matt Kemp, Carlos Lee, Ryan Ludwick, Nate McLouth, Hunter Pence, Manny Ramirez, Alfonso Soriano, Shane Victorino, Jayson Werth

SP: none

RP: Brad Lidge, Francisco Rodriguez

2009 Players With a Wide Range of Opinion

[NOTE: Our Experts' Draft Board is a compilation of other draft boards from major magazines and websites in the industry. These players had a wide disparity between their highest and lowest rankings in the survey.]

C: Jeff Clement (14, 21, 24), Jarrod Saltalamacchia (15, 22, 29), Kelly Shoppach (9, 12, 25), Taylor Teagarden (19, 22, not in the Top 30)

1B: Chris Davis (15, 17, not in the Top 30), Mike Jacobs (19, 20, 30), Adam LaRoche (18, 23, 30)

2B: Mike Aviles (14, 18, 27), Clint Barmes (19, 22, not in the Top 30), Mark Ellis (21, 29, not in the Top 30), Freddy Sanchez (17, 18, not in the Top 30), Aaron Hill (17, 19, not in the Top 30)

SS: Mike Aviles (13, 18, 23), Jason Bartlett (17, 27, 30), Asdrubal Cabrera (21, not in the Top 30, not in the Top 30), Bobby Crosby (19, 28, not in the Top 30), Cristian Guzman (12, 18, 26), Jed Lowrie (17, 17, 28)

3B: Adrian Beltre (8, 13, 20), Chone Figgins (6, 14, 19), Carlos Guillen (14, 17, 24), Mike Lowell (16, 19, 27), Melvin Mora (11, 21, 22), Ryan Zimmerman (7, 10, 20)

OF: Carl Crawford (1, 20, 25), Adam Dunn (17, 26, 38), Ichiro (5, 16, 21), Matt Kemp (8, 14, 23), Ryan Ludwick (12, 18, not in the Top 40), Nate McLouth (11, 14, 34),

Manny Ramirez (6, 6, 21), Shane Victorino (16, 28, 31)

DH: none

SP: Erik Bedard (10, 34, 37),

A.J. Burnett (14, 33, 38), John Danks (28, 29, not in the Top 50), Zack Greinke (18, 36, 39), Rich Harden (13, 28, 36), Scott Kazmir (11, 18, 32), Francisco Liriano (15, 23, 42),

Derek Lowe (24, 39, 46), Justin Verlander (25, 25, 45), Adam Wainwright (23, 26, 46), Jered Weaver (30, not in the Top 50, not in the Top 50), Chris Young (22, 24, not in the Top 50)

RP: none

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Respect Mah Eligibilitah!

10 Games 15 Games 20 Games

NOTE: The 20-game standard for eligibility is the one we apply for our draft board.

Amezaga	2B/SS/3B/OF	Amezaga	SS/3B/OF	Atkins	1B/3B	Helms	1B/3B
Aybar, W	1B/2B/3B	Aybar, W	1B/3B	Aurilia	1B/3B	Huff	1B/3B
Barnes	2B/SS/3B	Boone	1B/3B	Aviles	2B/SS	Infante	SS/3B/OF
Betemit	1B/SS/3B	Bowker	1B/OF	Baker	1B/2B	Inge	C/3B
Bloomquist	2B/SS	Burke, C	2B/OF	Barnes	2B/SS	Inglett	2B/OF
Cabrera, M	1B/3B	Cairo	1B/3B	Belliard	1B/2B/3B	Izturis	2B/SS
Castillo, L	2B/3B	Callaspo	2B/SS	Betemit	1B/3B	Jackson, C	1B/OF
Casto	1B/3B	Counsell	2B/SS/3B	Blake	1B/3B	Lowrie	SS/3B
Fahey	2B/SS	Dunn	1B/OF	Blalock	1B/3B	Mientkiewicz	1B/3B
Garciparra	SS/3B	Duran	2B/3B	Bruntlett	SS/3B/OF	Miles	2B/SS
Gload	1B/OF	Gomez, C	2B/SS/3B	Burriss	2B/SS	Ojeda	2B/SS/3B
Gonzalez, A	SS/3B	LoDuca	C/3B	Cabrera, A	2B/SS	Punto	2B/SS
Harris	2B/3B/OF	Lopez, F	2B/OF	Cantu	1B/3B	Quinlan	1B/3B
Hinske	1B/OF	Loretta	2B/3B	Carroll	2B/3B	Quintanilla	2B/SS
Hu	2B/SS	Maza	2B/SS	Catalanotto	1B/OF	Rivas	2B/SS
Infante	2B/SS/3B/OF	Prado	1B/2B/3B	Cedeno	2B/SS	Ryan	2B/SS
Inge	C/3B	Raburn	2B/3B/OF	Counsell	SS/3B	Santiago	2B/3B
Kennedy	2B/OF	Ramirez, Al	2B/SS	Davis, C	1B/3B	Scutaro	2B/SS/3B
Keppinger	SS/3B	Teahen	3B/OF	DeRosa	2B/3B/OF	Swisher	1B/OF
Lopez, F	2B/SS/3B/OF	Velez	2B/OF	DeWitt	2B/3B	Uribe	2B/3B
Lopez, J	1B/2B	Zobrist	SS/OF	Duncan, C	1B/OF	Vazquez, R	SS/3B
Martin, R	C/3B			German	2B/OF	Wigginton	3B/OF
Martinez, V	C/1B			Guillen, C	1B/3B	Wood	SS/3B
Mientkiewicz	1B/3B/OF			Hairston, S	SS/OF	Youkilis	1B/3B
Miles	2B/SS/3B						
Murphy	2B/SS/3B						
Norton	1B/OF						
Ortmeier	1B/OF						
Ozuna	2B/3B						
Pennington	2B/SS						
Punto	2B/SS/3B						
Ramirez, Al	2B/SS/OF						
Sandoval	C/1B/3B						
Stewart, I	2B/3B						
Teahen	1B/OF						
Valentin, Ja	C/1B						
Vazquez, R	2B/SS/3B						

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even	3B	Exp	Mix \$	Sing \$	UQB	Rk	Avg	Rk	HR	Rk	RBI	Rk	Runs	Rk	SB	Rk
1	David Wright	2	38	38	386	5	0.302	6T	33	2	124	1	115	1	15	3
2	Evan Longoria	3	35	35	311	10	0.272		27	7T	85	12	67	20	7	8
3	Kevin Youkilis	5	25	27	424	4	0.312	4	29	4T	115	2	91	7	3	
4	Aramis Ramirez	4	24	24	347	7	0.289	9	27	7T	111	3	97	4	2	
5	Chipper Jones	6T	24	24	492	3	0.364	1	22	15	75	16	82	10	4	
6	Aubrey Huff 1X	6T	24	26	307	11	0.304	5	32	3	108	4	96	5	4	
7	MARK DEROSA	14	23	23	355	6	0.285	13T	21	16T	87	11	103	3	6	9T
8	Alex Rodriguez	1	18	18	526	1	0.302	6T	35	1	103	6	104	2	18	2
9	Jorge Cantu	11T	16	16	231	20T	0.277	18	29	4T	95	10	92	6	6	9T
10	Ryan Zimmerman	10	15	15	180		0.283	17	14		51		51		1	
11	Garrett Atkins	8	15	15	231	20T	0.286	11T	21	16T	99	7T	86	9	1	
12	Chris Davis	9	14	16	325	8	0.285	13T	17	19T	55		51		1	
13	Chone Figgins	11T	13	13	0		0.276	19	1		22		72	14T	34	1
14	Alex Gordon	18	13	13	192		0.26		16		59	19	72	14T	9	5T
15	Adrian Beltre	13	13	13	224		0.266		25	11	77	15	74	13	8	7
16	Kevin Kouzmanoff		12	12	191		0.26		23	12T	84	13	71	16T	0	
17	Pablo Sandoval		12	12	267	12T	0.345	2	3		24		24		0	
18	Edwin Encarnacion 2X	16	12	12	224		0.251		26	10	68	18	75	12	1	
19	Mike Lowell		9	9	242	18	0.274	20T	17	19T	73	17	58		2	
20	Hank Blalock		7	8	236	19	0.287	10	12		38		37		1	
21	Ty Wigginton		7	8	262	14T	0.285	13T	23	12T	58	20T	50		4	
22	Troy Glaus	15	7	7	255	16	0.27		27	7T	99	7T	69	18	0	
23	Mark Reynolds	17	7	7	262	14T	0.239		28	6	97	9	87	8	11	4
24	Melvin Mora	19	7	8	317	9	0.285	13T	23	12T	104	5	77	11	3	
25	Ian Stewart		7	7	213		0.259		10		41		33		1	
26	Casey Blake		6	6	222		0.274	20T	21	16T	81	14	71	16T	3	
27	Blake DeWitt		6	7	195		0.264		9		52		45		3	
28	Carlos Guillen	20	6	7	208		0.286	11T	10		54		68	19	9	5T
29	Joe Crede		6	6	221		0.248		17	19T	55		41		0	
30	Daniel Murphy		6	6	253	17	0.315	3	2		17		23		0	
31	Scott Rolen		6	6	186		0.262		11		50		58		5	
32	Brandon Inge 3X		6	8	128		0.205		11		51		41		4	
33	Jed Lowrie		3	3	147		0.258		2		46		34		1	
34	Brandon Wood		3	3	0		0.2		5		13		12		4	
35	Andy LaRoche		3	3	0		0.166		5		18		17		2	
36	Josh Fields 4X		3	3	0		0.156		0		2		3		0	

Suggested Fantasy/Rotisserie League Guidelines

Unless you are a first-time participant, you have either played rotisserie baseball (a game in which players accrue points based on their performance in different categories) or fantasy baseball (a game in which different achievements earn various amounts of points). Here are our recommended formats for each (keeping in mind that for each format, if you have less than 10 owners, you should utilize a single-league format — and regardless of anything else, use a \$100 Free Agent Acquisition Budget, or FAAB, to allow for distribution of players):

^ Rotisserie baseball: We urge you to use the standard 5X5 setup, in which BA, HR, SB, Runs and RBI are used for hitters and Wins, Saves, WHIP, ERA and Ks are used for pitchers (4X4 leagues drop Runs and Ks). For example, if you are in a 12-team league, the team scoring highest in each category earns 12 points, on down to the lowest team earning 1 point. Rotisserie baseball is traditionally associated more with the auction format, which works well here. Each player is given \$260 of figurative money to purchase 23 players (2C, 1 1B, 1 2B, 1 SS, 1 3B, 5 OF, 1 CI, 1 MI, 1 Utility, 7 SP, 2 RP), with a 5-round standard serpentine draft afterwards to fill out a taxi squad.

^ Rotisserie/fantasy hybrid: This is probably our favorite form of competition, because it combines the traditional roto style with head-to-head play. Each week, you play against an opponent, competing in roto categories, with the winner of the most categories taking the victory (a tiebreaking category is established as a backup). Either an auction or the standard serpentine draft format works here.

^ Fantasy baseball: These categories should be used, with the number of points awarded for each in parentheses: Single (1), Double (2), Triple (3), HR (4), Hitter K (-1), Run (1), RBI (1), SB (1), Win (10), Save (5), IP- ER (1), K (1). For this format, a standard serpentine draft is preferred.

al	OF	Exp	Mix \$	Sing \$	UQB	Rk	Avg	Rk	HR	Rk	RBI	Rk	Runs	Rk	SB	Rk
1	Matt Holliday	1	37	37	378	10	0.321	2	25	17T	88	20	107	5	28	13
2	Josh Hamilton	4	36	36	404	7	0.304	16	32	10	130	1	98	14T	9	
3	Ryan Braun	3	36	38	301	15T	0.285		37	2T	106	6	92	20	14	29T
4	Carlos Beltran	5	34	36	341	11	0.284		27	14T	112	4	116	1	25	14T
5	Grady Sizemore	2	33	33	264	29T	0.268		33	7T	90	19	101	12	38	7
6	Carlos Quentin	6	31	31	584	2	0.288		36	5	100	9T	96	16T	7	
7	Manny Ramirez	7T	30	32	605	1	0.332	1	37	2T	121	2	102	10T	3	
8	Alfonso Soriano 1X	7T	26	28	324	14	0.28		29	12	75	35T	76		19	25T
9	Carl Crawford	15T	24	24	203		0.273		8		57		69		25	14T
10	MARK DEROSA		23	23	332	13	0.285		21	33T	87	21T	103	8T	6	
11	Curtis Granderson	23	23	23	285	21T	0.28		22	29T	66		112	3	12	34T
12	Nick Markakis	11	23	23	260	31T	0.306	11T	20		87	21T	106	6	10	
13	Carlos Lee	7T	22	24	567	3	0.314	6	28	13	100	9T	61		4	
14	Vladimir Guerrero	12	20	20	274	25	0.303	17T	27	14T	91	17T	85	26T	5	
15	Jason Bay	10	20	20	334	12	0.286		31	11	101	8	111	4	10	
16	B.J. Upton	15T	20	20	248		0.273		9		67		85	26T	44	3
17	Matt Kemp	14	20	20	230		0.29	35T	18		76	34	93	19	35	9
18	Bobby Abreu	18	19	19	253	34T	0.296	27T	20		100	9T	100	13	22	20
19	Alex Rios	17	19	19	212		0.291	34	15		79	28	91	21	32	11
20	Ryan Ludwick 2X	24	19	21	537	4	0.299	24	37	2T	113	3	104	7	4	
21	Magglio Ordonez	19T	17	17	294	18	0.317	4	21	33T	103	7	72		1	
22	Vernon Wells	29	17	17	293	19	0.3	22T	20		78	29T	63		4	
23	Jermaine Dye	21	17	17	281	23	0.292	33	34	6	96	15	96	16T	3	
24	Nate McLouth	19T	17	18	280	24	0.276		26	16	94	16	113	2	23	18T
25	Corey Hart	26	17	18	201		0.268		20		91	17T	76		23	18T
26	Brad Hawpe	30T	17	18	260	31T	0.283		25	17T	85	24T	69		2	
27	Hunter Pence	28	17	18	204		0.269		25	17T	83	27	78		11	
28	Shane Victorino	25	16	17	228		0.293	30T	14		58		102	10T	36	8
29	Torii Hunter	30T	16	16	209		0.278		21	33T	78	29T	85	26T	19	25T
30	Ichiro Suzuki	13	16	16	30		0.31	8	6		42		103	8T	43	4
31	Adam Dunn	27	16	17	428	6	0.236		40	1	100	9T	79	35T	2	
32	Andre Ethier 3X	32	16	17	247		0.305	14T	20		77	31T	90	22	6	
33	Johnny Damon	33	15	15	265	27T	0.303	17T	17		71		95	18	29	12
34	Jayson Werth		15	16	301	15T	0.273		24	24T	67		73		20	23T
35	Delmon Young	36T	15	15	175		0.29	35T	10		69		80	34	14	29T
36	Milton Bradley	38T	15	16	252		0.321	3	22	29T	77	31T	78		5	
37	Eric Byrnes		15	16	103		0.209		6		23		28		4	
38	Raul Ibanez 4X	34	15	16	242		0.293	30T	23	26T	110	5	85	26T	2	

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al	OF	Exp	Mix	\$	Sing	\$	UQB	Rk	Avg	Rk	HR	Rk	RBI	Rk	Runs	Rk	SB	Rk
39	Jay Bruce		13	14	215		0.254		21	33T	52		63		4			
40	Justin Upton	38T	13	14	183		0.25		15		42		52		1			
41	Shin-Soo Choo		13	13	519	5	0.309	9	14		66		68		4			
42	Chris Young		13	14	194		0.248		22	29T	85	24T	85	26T	14	29T		
43	Luke Scott		13	14	211		0.257		23	26T	65		67		2			
44	Xavier Nady		13	13	270	26	0.305	14T	25	17T	97	13T	76		2			
45	Elijah Dukes		12	13	265	27T	0.264		13		44		48		13	33		
46	Marcus Thames		12	12	403	8	0.241		25	17T	56		50		0			
47	<u>Carlos Gonzalez 5X</u>		12	13	10		0.242		4		26		31		4			
48	Lastings Milledge		11	12	183		0.268		14		61		65		24	17		
49	David Murphy		11	12	255	33	0.275		15		74		64		7			
50	Jeremy Hermida		11	12	188		0.249		17		61		74		6			
51	J.D. Drew		11	12	396	9	0.28		19		64		79	35T	4			
52	Rick Ankiel		11	12	296	17	0.264		25	17T	71		65		2			
53	Pat Burrell	36T	11	11	264	29T	0.25		33	7T	86	23	74		0			
54	Randy Winn	38T	10	11	178		0.306	11T	10		64		84	31	25	14T		
55	Jeff Francoeur		10	11	114		0.239		11		71		70		0			
56	Ryan Church		10	11	224		0.276		12		49		54		2			
57	<u>Cody Ross 6X</u>		10	11	220		0.26		22	29T	73		59		6			
58	Adam Lind		7	7	188		0.282		9		40		48		2			
59	Ty Wigginton		7	8	250		0.285		23	26T	58		50		4			
60	Nick Swisher		7	8	182		0.219		24	24T	69		86	25	3			
61	Conor Jackson	35	6	6	214		0.3	22T	12		75	35T	87	23T	10			
62	Chris Duncan		6	6	154		0.248		6		27		26		2			
63	Scott Hairston		6	6	155		0.248		17		31		42		3			
64	Ken Griffey Jr.		6	6	186		0.249		18		71		67		0			
65	Denard Span		6	6	289	20	0.294	29	6		47		70		18	27		
66	Jack Cust		6	6	285	21T	0.231		33	7T	77	31T	77		0			
67	Jacoby Ellsbury	22	6	6	204		0.28		9		47		98	14T	50	2		
68	<u>Daniel Murphy 7X</u>		6	6	253	34T	0.315	5	2		17		23		0			

Baseballology

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2009 FantasyDrafthelp.com Baseball Mock Draft & Analysis

1 - Jon	2 - Samm	3 - Mike P	4 - Mike V	5 - Jason	6 - NYB	7 - Russ	8 - Jeff W	9 - Jeff M	10 - Nate	11 - Tim	12 - Rick
1 H Ramirez	Pujols	A Rod	Longoria	Wright	Holliday	Braun	Hamilton	M Cabrera	Reyes	Sizemore	Lincecum
2 Soriano	Hamels	Utley	Webb	M Ramirez	Quentin	Kinsler	Howard	Beltran	Peavy	Rollins	Berkman
3 Soto	V Martinez	Teixeira	J Santana	McCann	Phillips	Youkilis	Sabathia	Al Ramirez	R Martin	D Ortiz	Pedroia
4 Roberts	DeRosa	Tulowitzki	V Guerrero	Uggla	Fielder	Morneau	Peralta	Beckett	Ar Ramirez	Crawford	Papelbon
5 Grandersn	Halladay	Lackey	BJ Upton	Nathan	C Jones	Haren	Huff	Mauer	Ad Gonzalz	Cl Lee	Doumit
6 Kazmir	Furcal	Bay	Hardy	Ca Lee	Napoli	Lester	F Rodriguz	Jeter	Lidge	Markakis	S Drew
7 M Rivera	Soria	Kemp	Matsuzaka	Liriano	M Young	Rios	Ludwick	Oswalt	Abreu	D Lee	M Ordonez
8 Votto	Ichiro	J Baker	Dunn	C Pena	Billingsley	Valverde	Delgado	Zimmerman	Verlander	Cano	V Wells
9 E Santana	Cantu	Broxton	Ryan	Harden	Wood	Aviles	Kendrick	Capps	Zambrano	Fuentes	Bedard
10 Shields	Hart	J Johnson	Gallardo	Greene	Wainwright	Greinke	Volquez	McLouth	T Hunter	F Hernandez	SP Young
11 Atkins	Dempster	Cain	Garza	Dye	Nolasco	C Davis	Myers	Burnett	Figgins	Guthrie	A Gordon
12 Lowe	Kuroda	J Sanchez	Pence	Carmona	Qualls	Volstad	Posada	Chamberln	Weeks	B Molina	Jenks
13 Lilly	Kouzmnnf	Sandoval	Giambi	Victorino	Danks	Ethier	R Johnson	Buehrle	Meche	Floyd	Beltre
14 Thome	Hoffman	Marmol	Price	Hafner	Jacobs	Saunders	Ibanez	Damon	Bradley	Werth	Slowey
15 F Cordero	Choo	J Upton	De Young	S Baker	Byrnes	Bruce	B Wilson	Ad LaRoche	Kershaw	Street	OF Young
16 Thames	Milledge	Scherzer	K Johnson	Vazquez	Scott	Jurrjens	Burrell	Nady	Dukes	Encarnacn	Jr Weaver
17 Ankiel	W Rodrigz	Winn	Balfour	M Gonzalz	Duchscherr	H Bell	Galarraga	Gozelanny	Ol Perez	Harang	S Olsen
18 J Lopez	Jiminez	Kawakami	Garciaiparra	Looper	Pelfrey	Iannetta	Wang	O Hudson	Renteria	Blanton	M Tejada
19 A Cabrera	Barnes	A Hill	L Castillo	Ellis	Polanco	F Sanchez	K Matsui	F Francisc	Fontenot	J Baker	Hermida
20 Sonnanstine	DeWitt	Zobrist	Wieters	Betancourt	Theriot	J Hairston	C Guzman	S Hairston	Lindstrom	Lowrie	Iwamura

On March 1, 2009, FantasyDrafthelp.com hosted a 2009 fantasy baseball mock draft. Participants were as follows: 1) FDH Contributor Jon Adams. 2) FDH Entertainment Editor Samantha Jones. 3) FDH Baseball Correspondent Mike Ptak. 4) FDH Contributor Mike Vili. 5) FDH Senior Editor Jason Jones. 6) The FDH New York Bureau. 7) Sportsology's Russ Cohen. 8) FDH Contributor Jeff Weber. 9) FDH Contributor Jeff Maslanich. 10) FDH Baseball Correspondent Nate Noy. 11) FDH Baseball Correspondent Tim Foust. 12) FDH Managing Partner Rick Morris.

Guidelines were as follows: "Draftmasters" format (with no transactions during the year), 5X5 standard rotisserie scoring, 20-round serpentine-style draft with the following position requirements: 1C, 1 1B, 1 CI/DH, 2 2B, 2 SS, 1 3B, 3 OF, 1 OF/DH, 6 SP, 2 RP.

Here are some round-by-round notes from the proceedings:

1. The draft began fairly predictably until Mike Vili (the most dramatic risk-taker of the bunch along with Nate) surprised a few folks with the Longoria selection at #4. There were no big surprises in the round, with a few minor ones being Reyes dropping to #10 and only one SP being taken – and not until Rick took Lincecum at #12.
2. Utley's injury questions caused Kinsler to be selected before him. We weren't sure where Manny would be Manny, but midway through the second round was slightly surprising.
3. One year in and already Soto's the first catcher off the board! That pick triggered a run on top backstops. Mike Vili gambled on Johan Santana with the fourth pick and if healthy, he could make Mike's squad the team to beat.
4. Rick's Papelbon pick did not trigger a run on closers. It would certainly have been surprising a year ago to see Crawford, Beckett and Mad Vlad dropping to this point. Value alert?
5. This round was full of good values, from the poor-man's-Sizemore in Granderson to Halladay to legit ace Lackey to big comeback candidate Upton to money closer Nathan.
6. Tim's Markakis selection could go down as one of the steals of the draft. The deep shortstop position began to see its depth plundered here.
7. Top-shelf closers were all gone at the top of the round. Jason gambled heavily on Liriano's resurgence and health.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 16)

2009 FantasyDrafthelp.com Baseball Mock Analysis

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15)

8. In this round, some good buy-low candidates emerged: Wells, Cano, Verlander, Zimmerman, two-category liability Ichiro and the still-developing Votto.

9. This was the ABBA "Take a Chance on Me" round: Ervin Santana and Cantu (who must prove that they can sustain their success), first-time closer Broxton, perennial health question mark Harden, new starter Aviles and last year's flop Bedard.

10. Rick and Tim gambled on huge upside with pitchers Young and King Felix to start the round. Many intriguing young arms followed from there.

11. There may have been a few quiet gems unveiled here: the always-underrated Dye, duel-eligible corner bats Atkins and Davis and the Cain-Garza upside duo.

12. Not much really stood out here, except for the Carmona reclamation gamble and a good value for Mike Vili in Pence.

13. Another round without much unusual, except for the fact that Jeff Weber is staking a decent amount on Randy Johnson benefiting from spending half his year in a pitcher's park.

14. It was surprising to see Hafner get picked ahead of Thome.

15. We saw many high-upside outfield gambles here: Choo, Justin Upton, Delmon Young, Byrnes, Bruce and Chris Young.

16. A variety of different approaches (old, young, safe, risky) were used here to fill out a number of outfield and starting pitcher spots.

17. Mike Ptak scored potentially a big value in Winn at this point.

18/19/20. Middle infielders fell to this point in huge numbers. Mike Vili's Wieters pick in the last round could earn huge dividends.

NOTABLE UNDRAFTED PLAYERS: J.D. Drew, Troy Glaus, Mike Lowell, Paul Maholm, John Maine, Dioner Navarro, Chris Perez, A.J. Pierzynski (largely due to only one catcher being drafted per team, but still somewhat surprising), Mark Reynolds, Kelly Shoppach (obvious playing time concerns).

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To donate to the fund, make checks payable to BGSU Foundation, Inc. On the memo line of the check, please write Carol Morris Scholarship Fund 30-000812

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World Baseball Classic Draft Board/Suggested League Guidelines

USA/Puerto Rico

- 1 Ryan Braun
- 2 Carlos Beltran
- 3 Carlos Quentin
- 4 Alex Rios
- 5 David Wright
- 6 Evan Longoria
- 7 Curtis Granderson
- 8 Carlos Delgado
- 9 Jake Peavy
- 10 Derek Jeter
- 11 Vernon Wells
- 12 Dustin Pedroia
- 13 Jimmy Rollins
- 14 Kevin Youkilis
- 15 Roy Oswalt
- 16 Scott Kazmir
- 17 Shane Victorino
- 18 Javier Vazquez
- 19 Derrek Lee
- 20 Chipper Jones
- 21 Brian Roberts
- 22 Brian McCann
- 23 Justin Verlander
- 24 Geovany Soto
- 25 Jeremy Guthrie
- 26 Mark DeRosa
- 27 Ryan Ludwick
- 28 John Danks
- 29 Ted Lilly
- 30 Jonathan Broxton
- 31 B.J. Ryan
- 32 JJ Putz

Dominican/Venezuela

- 1 Hanley Ramirez
- 2 Albert Pujols
- 3 David Ortiz
- 4 Jose Reyes
- 5 Miguel Cabrera
- 6 Alfonso Soriano
- 7 Vladimir Guerrero
- 8 Bobby Abreu
- 9 Magglio Ordonez
- 10 Carlos Zambrano
- 11 Aramis Ramirez
- 12 Adrian Beltre
- 13 Francisco Liriano
- 14 Ervin Santana
- 15 Felix Hernandez
- 16 Edinson Volquez
- 17 Jhonny Peralta
- 18 Carlos Pena
- 19 Jose Valverde
- 20 Robinson Cano
- 21 Carlos Guillen
- 22 Pablo Sandoval
- 23 Fausto Carmona
- 24 Melky Cabrera
- 25 Miguel Tejada
- 26 Melvin Mora
- 27 Jose Lopez
- 28 Dioner Navarro
- 29 Carlos Gonzalez

Other Countries

- 1 Ichiro Suzuki
- 2 Daisuke Matsuzaka
- 3 Kosuke Fukudome
- 4 Carlos Lee
- 5 Justin Morneau
- 6 Adrian Gonzalez
- 7 Jorge Cantu
- 8 Francisco Rodriguez
- 9 Joakim Soria
- 10 Jason Bay
- 11 Joey Votto
- 12 Manuel Corpas
- 13 Russell Martin
- 14 Mike Napoli
- 15 Jair Jurrjens
- 16 Oliver Perez
- 17 Mark Teahen
- 18 Jesse Crain
- 19 Scott Hairston
- 20 Jerry Hairston Jr
- 21 Matt Stairs
- 22 Frank Catalanotto
- 23 Nick Weglarz
- 24 Scott Richmond
- 25 Travis Blackley

Top 25 Overall

- 1 Ichiro Suzuki
- 2 Daisuke Matsuzaka
- 3 Kosuke Fukudome
- 4 Hanley Ramirez
- 5 Albert Pujols
- 6 Ryan Braun
- 7 David Ortiz
- 8 Jose Reyes
- 9 Miguel Cabrera
- 10 Alfonso Soriano
- 11 Carlos Lee
- 12 Carlos Beltran
- 13 Carlos Quentin
- 14 Alex Rios
- 15 Justin Morneau
- 16 Adrian Gonzalez
- 17 Jorge Cantu
- 18 Vladimir Guerrero
- 19 Bobby Abreu
- 20 Magglio Ordonez
- 21 David Wright
- 22 Evan Longoria
- 23 Curtis Granderson
- 24 Carlos Delgado
- 25 Jake Peavy

We strongly recommend that fantasy baseball players utilize their hobby to enhance their enjoyment of the great World Baseball Classic that pits the best of the best of many countries against one another this spring. Here are the FDH suggested league guidelines, which accompany the draft board on this page:

^ Five owners, taking part in a 15-round standard serpentine draft.

^ Each roster to include eight hitters (no position requirements) and seven pitchers (any combination of starters and relievers). Only MLB players are eligible.

^ Each team to have five players apiece (any combination of hitters/pitchers) from USA/Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic/Venezuela and all other countries.

SCORING GUIDELINES

These categories should be used, with the number of points awarded for each in parentheses:

- ^ Single (1)
- ^ Double (2)
- ^ Triple (3)
- ^ HR (4)
- ^ Hitter K (-1)
- ^ Run (1)
- ^ RBI (1)
- ^ SB (1)
- ^ Win (10)
- ^ Save (5)
- ^ IP-ER (1)
- ^ K (1).

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A-Rod's Steroid Confession: Apologizing After the Fact is Too Little, Too Late

So Alex Rodriguez has admitted to ESPN that he took steroids. He told them that the "pressure" was one of the factors. I understand that there was some pressure when he signed a \$252 million dollar deal, and many of us would love to see what it was like to live with that kind of monetary pressure, but the fact remains if you apologize after you were caught red handed by SI then it's too little too late – and now all of your records will be looked at with a jaundiced eye. There is just no way around it.

The time frame for the 'roids that Rodriguez told ESPN was between 2001-2003. In 2001, his home runs jumped from 41 to 52. So to all of those people who lie and say steroids don't make you a better player, they certainly do. A-Rod had some great years before 2001, but his best years did follow.

So why tell the truth now after lying about it for years? The answer is because he was caught.

Should baseball fans feel pity? I don't. During the steroid era, the baseball record book took a hit that will take another decade to recover from – optimistically. If fans are looking for a "clean" home run king in the future, they will wonder if he was on the list of 104 players that tested positive in 2003 and that's a shame.

Obviously, moms and dads should be the only role models in this country and youngsters may learn a lesson from seeing players like Rodriguez falling from grace – or will they? To me, that's the most interesting question. Will steroid use in this country drop now that players are getting exposed? Only time will tell on that one.

Would I put A-Rod in the Hall of Fame? The answer is NO! I understand steroid use was only illegal in this country, but not in the sport of baseball, but Rodriguez only had six great years before he started taking steroids – so everything after that is tainted in my eyes.

I grew up playing baseball, idolizing the players, and pouring through statistics. I still play and I still love the sport, but the "innocence or naivete" that I had when watching the sport has been taken away forever – not just for me, but also for most fans of the game. Sports aren't entertainment, so I don't ever use that analogy.

Baseball will survive this, the game always endures, but it has taken a tremendous hit this time. I still want players to be "clean" and now MLB has a testing program, but I can't guess anymore. I am beyond that. When somebody hits an upper deck homer, I'm not going to be as impressed as I would have been ten years ago. When a pitcher strikes out 20, I won't be impressed. That's the price that I have paid as a fan of the game and I won't go on paying it.

Is Bert Blyleven is a Hall of Famer? Certainly — Here's a List of Reasons Why

How is Bert Blyleven not in the Hall of Fame? At age 19, he was the youngest player in the majors in 1970. The former big league hurler was 287 and 250 with a 3.31 ERA w/ 242 complete games and 60 shutouts. He won 20 games once and also tallied 4969.99 IP, 4632 hits, 1322 walks and 3701 Ks. He was once 19-7 and also posted a 17-5 campaign. He played for the Twins, Indians, Pirates, Texas and the Angels. He had one of the best curveballs ever! He pitched a no-hitter. His play-off and World Series numbers speak volumes: LCS -- 24 IP, 3-0, 2.59 ERA, WS -- 23 IP 2-1, 2.35 ERA. When he retired, he was the second active K leader to Nolan Ryan. He is #11 all-time in games started. Eight out of the 11 are in the Hall and Greg Maddux will be the ninth! He played 22 seasons.

If you want to compare him to somebody, look no further than Phil Niekro. Phil had 318 wins and 274 losses pitching in two more seasons. He did have three 20-win seasons but after that, he pales in comparison. Niekro struck out 3,342: a nice number, but not the same. His career-ERA is higher at 3.35 as compared to a 3.31 for Bert. Niekro had 45 shutouts as compared to Blyleven's 60. Niekro's LCS numbers are weak, 0-1 with a 3.86 ERA.

If he doesn't get in because he has 287 and not 300 wins, then that's stupid. Remember that Dave Kingman had 442 home runs with a .236 batting average. Would he have gotten in with 500 home runs and that same batting average? Is a home run more important than a win, or just more fashionable? Here are some players that are in the Hall with less than 500 home runs: Lou Gehrig (493), Stan Musial (475), Willie Stargell (475), Dave Winfield (465) and Carl Yastrzemski (452). All of these players are in the Hall of Fame.

Milestones help gauge a player's greatness, but milestones change as the game changes. There will be a lot of players in the future that will get a lot less than 300 wins and Blyleven should get in. He deserves it.

Russ's Rants: Sportsology's Russ Cohen on Baseball's Hot Topics

You Know Who Should Get a Trip to Cooperstown? Why Curt Schilling, of course!

After 21 years and over 3,261 innings, Curt Schilling reached and went beyond one of the greatest goals a power pitcher can reach – the 3,000-strikeout mark. The 42-year-old now has 3,116 strikeouts and he's just the 14th pitcher in MLB history to accomplish that feat. Back in 2003, was that something that he wanted to achieve as a hurler?

"Yes. Up until the last two years, I never really thought about it, which just shows you how far in my mind I've come," said Schilling. "If it's there to get, I am going to do everything I can to get it. It's a number that I would like to achieve...yes."

The Red Sox ace is a real throwback. He had to overcome some inconsistent seasons when he was younger, and when he landed in Philadelphia in 1992, all of that changed for him. He got a chance to be the everyday starter and that's when he started becoming the ace that he is today. Success doesn't come easy and this educated pitcher has a secret.

"I'm a video freak and I got every pitch that I have thrown since 1994 on CD. I have probably four or five thousand pages of notes from the last nine years that I just update every year (he said in 2003)," he said.

Most people will remember the pitcher who was born in Anchorage, Alaska for the bloody sock and the way that he led the Red Sox to their long-awaited World Series victory back in 2004. It was his second championship as his other was with Arizona. He showed a level of guts and determination that few players have ever displayed.

"It comes down to pride. How much pride do you take at the job that you do? I work at my profession and I put a lot of time and a lot of effort away from the ballpark into what I do. If you don't execute, it doesn't show up. It comes down to execution."

This three-time 20-game winner was the first pitcher to win three World Series games for three different teams (Philadelphia, Arizona and Boston). Over 67% of the time he has been victorious on the pitchers mound. He has 216 career wins, 83 complete games and 22 saves because of the time he spent in the pen during his early days. These are Hall of Fame numbers and when he decides to call it a career, he has reached every important milestone in my estimation.

There is a reason that hitters still have problems with Schilling to this day.

"I go into a game with a pitch-by-pitch game plan. Preparation to me is the key to success, the attention to detail," said the 2001 World Series co-MVP.

In 2006, he went over the 200-inning mark for the ninth time in his career. He has nothing left to prove so it wouldn't shock me if he ends it after this season. Either way, he has established himself as one of the best pitchers of his era. He has been outspoken about the steroid era and he has come through it with a clean record of service and some pretty great numbers.

THE FDH LOUNGE MULTIMEDIA MAGAZINE: Nothing is off-topic

Among the hundreds of topics thus far: Karl Rove ... tunnels under Las Vegas ... Flava Flav ... Michael Vick ... the comeback of the KGB ... Summerslam ... the Big Ten Network ... Mitt Romney ... Mark Shapiro & Larry Dolan ... Sarah Palin ... LeBron James ... Ron Paul ... a Hamas boy band ... C.C. Sabathia ... Pat Robertson ... Ohio State/Michigan ... Vladimir Putin ... NFL Sunday Ticket ... Jim Tressel ... Madden '09 ... waterboarding ... Roid-ger Clemens ... NHL Winter Classic ... 2009 NFL Draft profiles ... Hillary Clinton ... all-star selections ... Juno ... hottest female cartoon characters ... Stone Temple Pilots reunion ... Bill Belichick ... Bill Clinton ... Jason Kidd ... Tony Bruno ... Chris Berman ... Chris Benoit ... Pao Gasol ... Berkeley city council hippies ... Bobby Knight ... Shaquille O'Neal ... Pistol Pete Maravich ... the Super Bowl ... Super Tuesday ... WrestleMania ... open-wheel racing ... James Dobson ... Looney Toons ... Barack Obama ... Grammy Awards ... John McCain ... NBA All-Star Weekend ... American Gangster ... George W. Bush ... the Daytona 500 ... old-school pro wrestling ... Dennis Kucinich ... Academy Awards ... Kosovo ... NBA trading deadline ... Bobby Jindal ... Vince McMahon, Jr. ... Brett Favre ... rating the greatest quarterbacks ... Floyd Mayweather ... geopolitics roundup ... timewasting video clips ... imagining Michael Scott of "The Office" moderating a presidential debate ... rating baseball's best players by position ... **TheFDHLounge.com**

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MLB Front Office Manager Review

By Russ Cohen

(New York, NY) - Baseball might be over for now, but the general manager of the Yankees, Brian Cashman, doesn't get a day off. Instead, he worked his day job in the Bronx and at night he was telling the media all about the new 2K Sports game, MLB Front Office Manager.

The game is extremely accurate and it deals with all of the baseball nuances that a GM encounters. Salary arbitrations, Rule V drafts, trades applying no-trade clauses and e-mails from Oakland GM Billy Beane – your owner will pretty much fill up the hours in your day. Beane also believes that from ages 27-32, those five years can be used as a baseline statistically for all baseball players, so they carried that over into the game.

The entire production crew walked me through this game, and a few things struck me. I have played a lot of sims in my life, including the old Front Page Baseball series. This game really focuses on what's important – like scouting, the minor leagues, Beane's insights and a great stats database (taken from Baseball Info Solutions as used by Bill James!). As a matter of fact, they had to go to another source besides the MLBPA to get the player's contract status (derived from an unknown source), and that shows why they will go the extra mile – so the gamer will have a good experience. Every GM will have a different personality, and that will make this game even more interesting.

This game has the best graphics that I have ever seen for a "sim" game. Player's faces (World Series MVP Cole Hamels looked terrific), stadiums and everything you see were built from the bottom up and not imported from MLB2K9. They have been working on this game for a long time, and I was impressed when I saw an outfielder actually waiting under a ball to make a catch! You can't control the players' movements, but you will get to manage.

On the minor league level, there are a few default stadiums but the rosters and players are all in there.

Getting back to Cashman, I am a fan of the other team in New York, the whole world knows that, but I have to say that I have always respected this man for his calm demeanor, the classy way he treats the media, and for his success. We talked about the 2000 World Series and a few other things and now I know why other GMs like trading with him.

I didn't expect him to get so detailed about his impression of the game.

"I remember Atari and stuff like that, and I remember Strat-O-Matic. This stuff wasn't available when I was younger," Cashman said about his earliest video game memories. "I do play now because I have kids. I can't make a trade or inquire about a player because it can be construed improperly, so the programmer was the general manager.

"It's really interesting....And over time from stress and probably from age, you grow a little belly, get a little grey hair, because you can pick your general manager and how you want to look. You're trim and fit but over time you can age."

When I asked if even a video game can wear you down over time, he responded, "Yeah (sigh). They really tried to capture as much, if not all, that they could."

MLB Front Office Manager can be played on the X-box 360, PS3 and the PC.

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FDH Standings/Awards Predictions for 2009 MLB

STANDINGS

AL EAST

X-Boston 95-67
Y-New York Yankees 92-70
Tampa Bay 90-72
Baltimore 74-88
Toronto 72-90

AL CENTRAL

X-Cleveland 84-78
Minnesota 83-79
Chicago White Sox 82-80
Detroit 80-82
Kansas City 79-83

AL WEST

X-Los Angeles Angels 90-72
Oakland 83-79
Texas 82-80
Seattle 70-92

NL EAST

X-Philadelphia 89-73
Y-New York Mets 87-75
Florida 82-80
Atlanta 76-86
Washington 69-93

NL CENTRAL

X-Chicago Cubs 90-72
St. Louis 85-77
Milwaukee 80-82
Houston 78-84
Cincinnati 77-85
Pittsburgh 73-89

NL WEST

X-Arizona 87-75
Los Angeles Dodgers 84-78
Colorado 75-87
San Francisco 74-88
San Diego 68-94

DIVISIONAL ROUND OF PLAYOFFS

Boston over Cleveland in 3
Los Angeles Angels over New York Yankees in 5
Chicago Cubs over New York Mets in 4
Arizona over Philadelphia in 5

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

Boston over Los Angeles Angels in 6
Arizona over Chicago Cubs in 6

WORLD SERIES

Boston over Arizona in 6

AWARDS

AL Rookie of the Year: Matt Wieters
AL Most Valuable Player: Matt Holliday
AL Cy Young Award Winner: John Lackey
AL Manager of the Year: Ron Gardenhire
NL Rookie of the Year: Cameron Maybin
NL Most Valuable Player: Hanley Ramirez
NL Cy Young Award Winner: Brandon Webb
NL Manager of the Year: Bob Melvin
World Series MVP: David Ortiz

FDH Minor League System Rankings

NOTE: These rankings are based on a point system generated by our Top 50 FDH Long-Term Minor League Prospects (Page 8).

1. Baltimore (290)
2. Tampa Bay (220)
3. Oakland (194)
4. Cleveland (176)
5. Pittsburgh (164)
6. San Diego (146)
7. Texas (132)
8. Atlanta (126)
9. San Francisco (120)
10. Toronto (118)
11. Kansas City (112)
12. St. Louis (110)
13. Florida (106)
14. Los Angeles Dodgers (98)
15. Milwaukee (84)
16. Detroit (82)
17. Colorado (68)
18. Boston (52)
19. Chicago White Sox (42)
20. Los Angeles Angels (32)
21. Cincinnati (28)
22. Minnesota (26)
23. Arizona (20)
24. New York Mets (16)
- 25T. Chicago Cubs (0)
- 25T. Houston (0)
- 25T. New York Yankees (0)
- 25T. Philadelphia (0)
- 25T. Seattle (0)
- 25T. Washington (0)

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^ college hoops team bracket draft
^ college football team draft
^ college football team bowl draft

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^ hot dog eating contest

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2009 Fantasy Overview

^ Two trends that we've been monitoring over recent seasons continued to materialize in 2008. The first is the narrowing ratio between home runs and stolen bases. Taters will always be more plentiful than steals, but the gap between the two is narrowing, meaning that power is SLIGHTLY more valuable relative to speed compared to the height of the steroid era. Speed still has value, elite speed much more value, but it's harder to make tradeoffs than it used to be, especially for players at traditional power positions like Chone Figgins and Ichiro. The second trend that continues is the rising number of strikeouts per game almost each season recently. We predicted starting back in 2006 that with MLB's implementation of amphetamine testing that elite heat would take on more value because players no longer able to "bean up" to play would not be catching up to it, especially in the dog days of summer. Strikeout numbers are more important than ever for big-time pitchers and your team needs to reflect this trend. Pitchers who are largely dependent on the defense behind them are losing a lot of value in this climate.

^ The middle infield and catcher positions tend to be lumped together in terms of relative scarcity from year to year, but of course no two seasons are completely alike and the availability of desirable starters at each position will vary from year to year. In 2009, the pool of starting-caliber shortstops is as deep as any of these positions have seen in recent memory. On the FDH draft board, we have eleven players listed as desirable starters (including a player who should be dual-eligible in all leagues this year in Alexei Ramirez – and admittedly, he makes a better second baseman for your team because of the smaller pool of top-level talent there). All things being equal, it should be much easier to wait and pick up a good talent at shortstop relative to catcher and second base this year.

^ Balance continues to be a key watchword for fantasy success in 2009, especially in roto-based leagues. With few obvious exceptions such as the speed-challenged Albert Pujols, hitters who deliver no value in any of the standard fantasy categories should take a back seat to other, more well-rounded contributors. If it becomes necessary to "sell out" to pick up a player in the middle-to-later rounds with good value but who is lacking in a few categories, try to find pick up their "offset twin" – a player with mirror-image strengths and weaknesses. A few possibilities would include Adam Dunn/Ichiro and James Loney/Mark Reynolds (an actual combination of players owned for \$1 apiece in a 20-team, long-term keeper league by FDH Managing Partner Rick Morris).

^ The pool of available ace starting pitchers is within the range it's been over the past few years (eight-deep on the FDH board), but the group of potential #2 starting pitchers is quite strong (14-deep on the FDH board). Plenty of upside can be found rather cheap at this level, with such potential Cy Young award winners as John Lackey, Chad Billingsley, Chris Young and Felix Hernandez being available in the upper-middle rounds in many leagues.

2008 Legitimate Breakthroughs/Reclamation Cases

C: Ryan Doumit, Chris Iannetta, Geovany Soto

1B: Jorge Cantu, Aubrey Huff, Joey Votto, Kevin Youkilis

2B: Dustin Pedroia, Alexei Ramirez

SS: Stephen Drew, Alexei Ramirez (not eligible at SS in 20-game leagues in '08, but will be this year)

3B: Jorge Cantu, Aubrey Huff, Evan Longoria, Kevin Youkilis

OF: Shin-Soo Choo, Ryan Ludwick, Carlos Quentin, Jayson Werth

SP: Chad Billingsley, Matt Garza, Jon Lester, Cliff Lee, Daisuke Matsuzaka, Ervin Santana

RP: Matt Capps, Kerry Wood

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