



2008 FIRST BASE 1B Rankings

Mixed League Player Rankings & Analysis

Written by

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1B Albert Pujols, St. Louis	Age: 27 Size: 6'3" 230
<p>MLBFO: People are going to have the urge to dismiss Pujols like they did A-Rod last year, don't let it happen! The elbow thing is a concern but until he says he can't take the pain, I'd ride Pujols as long as possible.</p> <p>FM: There is a huge concern with Pujols and his elbow. Fact is, he's had this elbow problem since 2003 and last year Pujols hit .330+ in the second half with the same problem. The media is making such a big deal that Pujols is now slipping into the 2nd round in most snake drafts and into the \$35 range in auctions. Scoop him up while he's cheap and ride out the storm, just make sure you handcuff Pujols with a quality CI just in case he calls it quits in July. Stat projection as if he opts for surgery in July....</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 565 AVG: .327 HR: 32 RBI: 103 R: 99 SB: 2</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 580 AVG: .320 HR: 20 RBI: 65 R: 70 SB: 3</p>	
1B Prince Fielder, Milwaukee	Age: 23 Size: 6'0" 262
<p>MLBFO: It's hard to put such an unproven guy so high, but if anyone deserves it, it's Fielder. Think Ryan Howard of last year, but even better. Can he repeat his numbers? You better believe it!</p> <p>FM: Prince is only 23, which is the reason he gets the nod over Howard. If he can get his average up to .300+ he easily becomes a top 5 pick in 2009.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 573 AVG: .288 HR: 50 RBI: 119 R: 109 SB: 2</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 580 AVG: .280 HR: 50 RBI: 120 R: 100 SB: 0</p>	
1B Ryan Howard, Philadelphia	Age: 28 Size: 6'4" 252
<p>MLBFO: 47 homeruns in only 144 games. 50 homeruns is certainly a possibility for this young stud. He's a late first round pick!</p> <p>FM: I think you can expect Howard to get his average back up above .280+. His low average in '07 compared to that of '06 has to do with a monster slump in the first half and a quad injury that kept Howard out for a few weeks. A healthy chunk of his 2007 stats came in the second half. Better suited to be picked in the late first round but don't be surprised if he's gone in the top 5 because of his monster power potential.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 529 AVG: .268 HR: 47 RBI: 136 R: 94 SB: 1</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 580 AVG: .270 HR: 50 RBI: 135 R: 110 SB: 0</p>	

DH David Ortiz, Boston	Age: 32 Size: 6'4" 230
<p>FM: Only played 7 games at 1B. Ortiz's power numbers dipped a bit most likely because of a chronic knee issue but the good news was that he hit well above .300, which is a great sign for 2008. Assuming he stays healthy, we should see his power numbers jump back into the 40+ range while his average could quite possibly still hover close to .300. The knee thing could make some of us nervous, but Big Papi is not brittle. He warrants a 1st round draft pick in any league.</p> <p>MLBFO: Average and Power have been shown to be inversely proportional. For this reason, I expect his power to rise and his average to drop. .300 seems to be his absolute upside with 50 homeruns as his power upside.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 549 AVG: .332 HR: 35 RBI: 117 R: 116 SB: 3</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 575 AVG: .300 HR: 45 RBI: 130 R: 100 SB: 3</p>	



1B Mark Teixeira, Atlanta	Age: 27 Size: 6'3" 220
<p>MLBFO: The result of this season's trade deadline blockbuster is that NL only leagues are now graced by another elite 1B -- Mark Teixeira. And...Teixeira was even better for Atlanta than he was for Texas last year.</p> <p>FM: The stat that pops out at me is the .306 average. If he keeps that up with another 100 AB, the potential for .300/40/120+ is there. You're looking at Fielder/Howard/Ortiz numbers (minus a few HR's) for a cheaper price on draft day.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 494 AVG: .306 HR: 30 RBI: 105 R: 86 SB: 0</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 580 AVG: .290 HR: 35 RBI: 110 R: 100 SB: 0</p>	

1B Lance Berkman, Houston	Age: 31 Size: 6'1" 220
<p>MLBFO: The second half was much more representative of Berkman's skill set than the first half was. I expect a good first half rebound from Berkman leading to an overall superior year to last year.</p> <p>FM: The talent is there and you have to expect a rebound especially with two speedy table setters in Michael Bourn and Kaz Matsui. A nice cheaper option if you miss out on the big dogs. Look at Pujols' numbers from last year and other than AVG, everything else is similar. If Berkman rebounds, his HR/RBI/SB totals will compare with Pujols', at a much cheaper price.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 561 AVG: .278 HR: 34 RBI: 102 R: 95 SB: 7</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 580 AVG: .295 HR: 35 RBI: 110 R: 95 SB: 5</p>	

1B Justin Morneau, Minnesota	Age: 26 Size: 6'4" 233
<p>FM: Some will tell you that Morneau is injury prone, but I don't think he is. Its usually freak injuries. With that in mind, I go all out for Morneau because his power numbers and potential is almost too good to be true. In 2006 he hit .320+ while in 2007 he hit .280. I think he's more the .280-.295 type but 40+ HR & 120+ is what you could expect if he can stay consistent all season. A late season crash really hampered his numbers in '07.</p> <p>MLBFO: Morneau is still only 26, so expect his power to continue to rise. 45 homeruns may be on the high side, but if he's below 40 I'd be disappointed. This just shows how deep the first base position is.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 590 AVG: .271 HR: 31 RBI: 111 R: 84 SB: 0</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 590 AVG: .285 HR: 45 RBI: 120 R: 100 SB: 0</p>	

1B/C Victor Martinez, Cleveland	Age: 29 Size: 6'2" 195
<p>FM: V-Mart had a career year and the .300+ average is legit. While the power increased beyond expectations, its possible that he could his 2007 stats as he is still at the beginning of his prime and is entrenched in a monster offensive lineup.</p> <p>MLBFO: I agree on Martinez. He seems a good bet to repeat his numbers from last year and Cleveland is only going to get better. He is the best catcher on the board and remains valuable even if played at 1B.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 562 AVG: .301 HR: 25 RBI: 114 R: 78 SB: 0</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 550 AVG: .300 HR: 25 RBI: 100 R: 80 SB: 0</p>	

1B Carlos Pena, Tampa Bay	Age: 29 Size: 6'2" 215
<p>FM: So was 2007 for real or a fluke? We'll find out thus year I guess. He'll either be the guy everyone scrambles for on draft day, highly over paid only to disappoint during the season or he'll shine with consistency the way he did in his breakout 2008 campaign. Assuming he's for real, Tampa definitely has a bona fide first baseman for years to come.</p> <p>MLBFO: Pena is probably the biggest risk of any first baseman this year. I wouldn't be surprised if something about steroids leaked out about him. That being said, he broke out in his age 28 season which is right around the prime for position players. I guess the power is for real, but he regresses slightly.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 490 AVG: .282 HR: 46 RBI: 121 R: 99 SB: 1</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 580 AVG: .290 HR: 40 RBI: 110 R: 100 SB: 3</p>	

DH Travis Hafner, Cleveland	Age: 30 Size: 6'3" 240
<p>FM: 2007 was an incredibly down year, especially to those who thought Hafner would contend for the AL MVP and drafted him in the late first or second round. Good news is, this down year could make Hafner a decent value in the 3rd or early 4th rounds in drafts this year. Bad news is, he was inconsistent all season so know it's a crapshoot whether or not he is a .300+ hitter or a .260+ hitter.</p> <p>MLBFO: I fully expect Hafner to rebound after his horrendous 2007. 45 homeruns and a .290 average seem completely possible to me. That being said, I agree that he is a risk. If he lasts into the 3rd round, you have to grab him.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 545 AVG: .266 HR: 24 RBI: 100 R: 80 SB: 1</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 580 AVG: .290 HR: 35 RBI: 110 R: 100 SB: 0</p>	

1B Adrian Gonzalez, San Diego	Age: 25 Size: 6'2" 220
<p>MLBFO: Those of you who read my rankings last year know that I adore Adrian Gonzalez. He's still only 25 and his power is still developing. He could reach 40 homeruns at some point in his career and 35 seems realistic for next year.</p> <p>FM: Last year everyone said that he might top out at 25HR and then hit 30. I think 35 could be stretching it but its attainable with a potential to hit .300+ too. A major reason Gonzo ended with a .282AVG was thanks to a monster slump during the middle of the season which is something to expect from a young player in his first full major league season.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 646 AVG: .282 HR: 30 RBI: 100 R: 101 SB: 0</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 630 AVG: .290 HR: 35 RBI: 110 R: 100 SB: 0</p>	

DH/OF Gary Sheffield, Detroit	Age: 39 Size: 6'0" 215
<p>FM: Only played 14 games in OF in '07. Sheffield's stats from 2007 are extraordinary. Power numbers & AVG were down, OBP was normal, but Runs & SB were up. I expect a bit of a switch but the potential for 100+ runs and 15+ SB is there because Sheffield always seems to be on base. He had surgery to repair his ailing shoulder and should be ready for spring training. Assuming he's healthy, he's a great bargain on draft day slipping past the 8th round in some drafts.</p> <p>MLBFO: Even at age 39, Sheffield can still rake. His numbers could be a bit unpredictable and you'd have to expect a few missed games but when he does play and when he does go 0-5, he seems to contribute to some category whether its Runs or SB's.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 494 AVG: .265 HR: 25 RBI: 75 R: 107 SB: 22</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 500 AVG: .285 HR: 25 RBI: 100 R: 100 SB: 10</p>	

1B Derrek Lee, Chicago Cubs	Age: 32 Size: 6'5" 245
<p>MLBFO: He rebounded well after being injured, but he lost a lot of his power. Will the power return or will it stay MIA? I'm betting for somewhere in-between.</p> <p>FM: Brad is right on here. We don't know if he is the Derrek Lee of 2005 or 2007 (2006 was somewhat of a lost season). What you can count on is durability, 600AB, and a .300+AVG. Lee most likely won't hit more than 35HR, if that...</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 567 AVG: .317 HR: 22 RBI: 82 R: 91 SB: 6</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 600 AVG: .320 HR: 27 RBI: 100 R: 100 SB: 5</p>	

1B Paul Konerko, Chicago	Age: 31 Size: 6'2" 215
<p>FM: Here's a guy who has the potential to be a fantasy superstar, and then goes and has a mediocre season like 2007. He has 40+ HR potential but each year who knows what you're going to expect. He's usually the cheapest 1B at the auction for top power potential, meaning you can save a buck while still landing a .285+/40+/110 type of player.</p> <p>MLBFO: Konerko's overall numbers were limited by a huge slump in the beginning of the season. The fact that he ended with 31 homeruns after that is impressive. The last time Konerko had a slump like that was in 2003 when he batted .234. In 2004, he hit 41 homeruns and batted .277. I fully expect Konerko to rebound.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 549 AVG: .259 HR: 31 RBI: 90 R: 71 SB: 0</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 580 AVG: .285 HR: 40 RBI: 110 R: 85 SB: 0</p>	

1B Todd Helton, Colorado	Age: 34 Size: 6'2" 210
<p>MLBFO: The Rockies are probably pretty happy they didn't trade Helton. From a fantasy standpoint, he has only once batted below .300 and that was way back in his rookie year in 1997 when he only played in 35 games. He's consistent.</p> <p>FM: The thing about Helton is that the power days are gone and as he gets older, he's going to become more of a role player than the guy everyone counts on now that Matt Holliday and Garrat Atkins are becoming household names. What you can count on is the consistency, the .300+AVG, 15+HR, 90+RBI</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 557 AVG: .320 HR: 17 RBI: 91 R: 86 SB: 0</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 580 AVG: .320 HR: 15 RBI: 90 R: 85 SB: 0</p>	

1B Carlos Delgado, New York	Age: 35 Size: 6'3" 264
<p>MLBFO: Delgado has been regressing for some time now and will continue to next year. That being said, he hasn't had less than 20 homeruns since 1995 and this won't be the first year.</p> <p>FM: 2007 was terrible for Delgado and although he is regressing, he should show a bit of a rebound in 2008. He's only 35 and is a monster in size so I'd expect a bit of a resurgence and at least .270/25+HR/90+RBI potential to be safe at 3/4 the price he was in 2007. Delgado is falling so hard in drafts that you can scoop up a 30+HR potential in the 15th round!</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 538 AVG: .258 HR: 24 RBI: 87 R: 71 SB: 4</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 550 AVG: .270 HR: 25 RBI: 90 R: 85 SB: 0</p>	

1B James Loney, Los Angeles	Age: 23 Size: 6'3" 220
<p>MLBFO: The Dodgers found 344 AB for Loney last year and he rewarded them with an average above .300 and 15 homeruns. They'll find 550 AB for him next year and he'll reward them with even more. This kid is for real.</p> <p>FM: You can probably expect the .300+AVG but don't expect 30+HR like I have read in some publications. Loney did not show much power in the minors but he certainly has the size and skill to be a .300/30/100 player....just not yet, maybe 2009</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 344 AVG: .331 HR: 15 RBI: 67 R: 41 SB: 0</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 550 AVG: .295 HR: 22 RBI: 80 R: 80 SB: 0</p>	

1B/SS Carlos Guillen, Detroit	Age: 32 Size: 6'1" 215
<p>FM: Guillen played 36 games at 1B and is penciled in as the starting 1B in 2008. The pro here is that not many first basemen have SS eligibility which makes Guillen special. The con here is that if you take Guillen too early in the draft, you might be missing out on some top power numbers. Yes, his speed is valuable at the corner position but it will come at a price! Guillen has been on the disabled list five times since 1999.</p> <p>MLBFO: Guillen won't be being drafted as a 1B in any leagues this year. That being said, if your first baseman goes down with injury and you have an extra SS, Guillen's multiple-position eligibility really comes in handy. Look for him to improve his offensive numbers because he's playing at a less stressful infield position.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 564 AVG: .296 HR: 21 RBI: 102 R: 86 SB: 13</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 575 AVG: .300 HR: 25 RBI: 100 R: 90 SB: 15</p>	

1B/OF Nick Swisher, Chicago**Age: 27 Size: 6'0" 215**

FM: This guy kills me. He starts out strong in 2006 and on his way to stardom, then goes into an insane slump in the second half. In 2007, he seems consistent until late May then hits the slump for a while to finally bounce back in late July and finishes strong. He's young enough to have a ton of upside, has 30+ HR power and is a must in leagues that count OBP as he always has .400+ potential because of his patience. **UPDATE:** Swisher was traded to the White Sox for prospects. There is a crowd in the Chicago OF with Dye, Jerry Owens, and Carlos Quentin along with Joe Crede at 3B and Josh Fields who played half his games in the OF in '07. Rest assured that Swisher will play every day. There are rumors of trades of different players so keep an eye on this situation. The players to be most effected are Owens and Quentin while the Sox try to find an everyday place in the lineup for Fields...but Swisher appears to be safe. His value rises a bit because he is now playing in a smaller hitter's park and in a better lineup.

MLBFO: Until Swisher can prove he can play consistently, he's not someone I want taking up a starting position on my fantasy team. He's still only 27 so a power breakout with the next year or two is certainly possible. It's just an all too risky pick at this point.

2007 Stats: AB: 539 AVG: .262 HR: 22 RBI: 78 R: 84 SB: 3

2008 Potential: AB: 550 AVG: .275 HR: 30 RBI: 90 R: 100 SB: 3

1B/3B Kevin Youkilis, Boston**Age: 28 Size: 6'1" 220**

FM: Youk had us going there for a while when he was a hit machine in the first half of the season, but quickly faded down the stretch. The good thing is that last season was a big step for Youkilis who will now be considered as a top 15 fantasy first baseman because of his ability to get on base and score runs. He's solid, OBP is stellar and he can hit the occasional long ball. Not your typical power threat you'd get at a corner spot but a hitter who knows how to get on base. He gets a higher ranking because he hits in that dangerous Boston lineup and has 3B eligibility.

MLBFO: I completely agree. Youk thrives in the Boston lineup and playing half your games at Fenway doesn't hurt either. The first base eligibility is a nice little bonus if you decide to draft him as a utility player at the end of your draft.

2007 Stats: AB: 528 AVG: .288 HR: 16 RBI: 83 R: 85 SB: 4

2008 Potential: AB: 590 AVG: .300 HR: 15 RBI: 90 R: 100 SB: 3

1B/3B Alex Gordon, Kansas City**Age: 23 Size: 6'1" 220**

FM: Some managers feel duped by the disappointing 2007 season from Gordon, but he's still young enough to make us believe in those David Wright comparisons. Let's assume that with a full year in the league behind him and his durability continues, you have to think Gordon will improve on his disappointing debut. If that's the case, a 20/20 season is not out of the question in 2008!

MLBFO: Gordon began the season terribly, but heated up after June 1st and actually had a solid second half. I don't think 25 or 30 homeruns is completely out of the question, but that may be a bit of a stretch for this season. 20/20 is certainly possible.

2007 Stats: AB: 543 AVG: .247 HR: 15 RBI: 60 R: 60 SB: 14

2008 Potential: AB: 575 AVG: .290 HR: 20 RBI: 90 R: 90 SB: 20

1B/C Jarrod Saltalamacchia, Texas

Age: 22 Size: 6'4" 195

FM: Brought up as a catcher and traded at the deadline for Mark Texiera, this guy has immense presence at the plate and is a star in the making. If you haven't already in keeper leagues, now is the time to invest in Salty. He will be the ultimate power hitting catcher. Although, I don't see Texas unseating Gerald Laird at catcher, so my prediction is that Salty opens the season at 1B.

MLBFO: Texas has been fielding offers for Laird, but they have a huge vacancy at first base right now. Therefore, Salty starting at first base seems like a reasonable assumption at this point. However, he will still be drafted purely as a catcher and could compete with the elite catchers for the top spot in 2009.

2007 Stats: AB: 308 AVG: .266 HR: 11 RBI: 33 R: 39 SB: 0

2008 Potential: AB: 550 AVG: .290 HR: 25 RBI: 90 R: 80 SB: 0



1B/DH Billy Butler, Kansas City

Age: 21 Size: 6'1" 225

FM: Butler played 13 games at 1B so could qualify in most leagues. Butler was a .344 hitter in three minor league seasons and his first taste of the majors wasn't half bad. Batted .300+, 4 HR, 37 RBI in the second half gearing him up for 2008. Should be a staple in the Royals lineup for years to come. The potential numbers below are quite modest as .300/20/100 is possible.

MLBFO: I agree with the Fantasy Man that Butler could reasonably reach .300/20/100. He hit 8 homeruns in 329 at bats and 500 at bats is a modest prediction for his total at bats. At age 21, the Royals have a developing superstar on their hands.

2007 Stats: AB: 329 AVG: .292 HR: 8 RBI: 52 R: 38 SB: 0

2008 Potential: AB: 500 AVG: .300 HR: 15 RBI: 90 R: 75 SB: 1

1B Ryan Garko, Cleveland	Age: 26 Size: 6'2" 225
<p>FM: Burst on the scene in 2006 with 45 RBI in the second half and following it up with a .289/21/61 performance in 2007. He started in a platoon role while he was still working on his defense but injuries have paved the way for the Garko era. Here is another pure hitter, promoted to the majors because of his hitting. Garko can hit all over the ball park with 30+ HR potential and was a key contributor to the Indians post season run.</p> <p>MLBFO: Garko has the potential to hit 30 homeruns, whether or not he'll reach it this year is a different question. I think 25 homeruns is a bit more reasonable expectation, with 30 being his absolute upside. Garko may have one season in his career when he hits 35-40 homeruns, but he just isn't that type of hitter.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 484 AVG: .289 HR: 21 RBI: 61 R: 62 SB: 0</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 550 AVG: .290 HR: 30 RBI: 100 R: 85 SB: 0</p>	

1B Casey Kotchman, Los Angeles	Age: 24 Size: 6'3" 215
<p>FM: Kotchman is a pure hitter, great eye and actually has a clue at the plate. He is one of the leagues best kept secrets and should be low on most managers' radar this season, at least before spring training starts. Line drive/doubles type hitter who has .300+/20+ HR potential as early as this year.</p> <p>MLBFO: Kotchman is still only 24 so the Angels will give him the chances to prove his worth. That being said, he hasn't blossomed into the stud hitter many thought he would. If he can stay on the field for 540 at bats, he could hit 15 homeruns. However, he may struggle to find at bats if he begins to slump.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 443 AVG: .296 HR: 11 RBI: 68 R: 64 SB: 2</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 540 AVG: .300 HR: 15 RBI: 85 R: 75 SB: 1</p>	

1B Joey Votto, Cincinnati	Age: 24 Size: 6'3" 220
<p>MLBFO: The Reds are going to find a full season of at bats for Votto and they won't be sorry. You shouldn't hesitate to nab him in the later rounds of a mix-league draft, but don't go in with him as your #1.</p> <p>FM: Votto should have an overall quality season and if you grab him later in a draft, he'll probably make for a nice keeper in deeper leagues for 2009. I wouldn't expect a Cabrera/Pujols like explosion, but Votto shows quality power and speed.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 84 AVG: .321 HR: 4 RBI: 17 R: 11 SB: 1</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 500 AVG: .295 HR: 15 RBI: 65 R: 60 SB: 10</p>	

1B Adam LaRoche, Pittsburgh	Age: 28 Size: 6'3" 205
<p>MLBFO: Those expecting LaRoche to repeat his numbers from '06 were sadly disappointed. Plus, if the Pirates trade Bay, LaRoche could really be without any lineup to support him.</p> <p>FM: Most of these stats came in the second half again....I'd expect the same this year.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 563 AVG: .272 HR: 21 RBI: 88 R: 71 SB: 1</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 580 AVG: .275 HR: 20 RBI: 70 R: 60 SB: 0</p>	

1B Jason Giambi, New York	Age: 36 Size: 6'3" 235
<p>FM: You'll here rumors about the Yankees trading him all year. Chances are he'll land on the DL for something or miss a few days here and there. I think 450 or less at bats should be expected but still possess that 30+/120+ power potential. You heard it here first, but there is a chance that Giambi could land the everyday 1B job making him a huge sleeper! Giambi has come into camp in fantastic shape and there's a lot to like about his situation. Keep an eye on him this spring!</p> <p>MLBFO: Giambi will struggle to stay healthy, we all know that. 450 at bats seems like a reasonable expectation, but it could be less.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 254 AVG: .236 HR: 14 RBI: 39 R: 31 SB: 1</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 450 AVG: .280 HR: 30 RBI: 90 R: 80 SB: 0</p>	

1B Lyle Overbay, Toronto	Age: 30 Size: 6'2" 230
<p>FM: Is this the year? In a way, we have been disappointed by Overbay. Each year analysts predict he will break out with a 30+ or 40+ HR performance, but he never delivers. He has the size and the swing to do it, but he's a doubles hitter plain and simple. If you're prepared to settle for .290/20/100/100, Overbay is a quiet contributor. Go cheap here and load up on other positions. The wrist injury was a fluke which should not have any affect on his performance in 2008.</p> <p>MLBFO: Overbay has reached the point in his career where a breakout is likely not going to happen. That being said, I agree with the FM that Overbay can offer solid production off your fantasy bench.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 425 AVG: .240 HR: 10 RBI: 44 R: 49 SB: 2</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 570 AVG: .300 HR: 20 RBI: 100 R: 100 SB: 3</p>	

1B Daric Barton, Oakland	Age: 22 Size: 6'0" 205
<p>FM: Barton hasn't showed much power yet in the minors but he is believed to have the possibility to grow into a 25+HR guy. His main asset is BBB and OBP. Except for rookie ball in 2003, Barton has had more walks than K's in every other minor league season from 2004-2007 including OBP above .389 in each of those seasons. Will have to win out the 1B job in spring as nothing with Billy Beane is written in stone.</p> <p>MLBFO: Just be careful here because Dan Johnson is still in the picture while Jack Cust doesn't appear to be an everyday outfielder and needing him to DH.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 72 AVG: .347 HR: 4 RBI: 8 R: 16 SB: 1</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 500 AVG: .280 HR: 15 RBI: 80 R: 90 SB: 5</p>	

1B Conor Jackson, Arizona	Age: 25 Size: 6'2" 225
<p>MLBFO: Most expected Jackson to finally break out for more power last year. It didn't happen, but that power is in there somewhere. Could this be the year?</p> <p>FM: Jackson has upside and the young quality players around him to help increase his potential output. He has the size to be a 20+/90+ player but we're still waiting.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 415 AVG: .284 HR: 15 RBI: 60 R: 56 SB: 2</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 500 AVG: .290 HR: 20 RBI: 65 R: 65 SB: 3</p>	

1B/3B Casey Blake, Cleveland	Age: 34 Size: 6'2" 210
<p>FM: Contributes versatility but his consistently low AVG make him simply a serviceable fantasy player in deeper mixed leagues. He a player you draft as a back up because you know you'll need him at some point, thus making him "serviceable".</p> <p>MLBFO: Not much else to say about Blake. You might be better off going with a high upside pick because at 34, he could start to decline.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 588 AVG: .270 HR: 18 RBI: 78 R: 81 SB: 4</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 575 AVG: .275 HR: 20 RBI: 85 R: 80 SB: 3</p>	

1B/3B Aubrey Huff, Baltimore	Age: 31 Size: 6'4" 231
<p>FM: Looks like Huff found a home in Baltimore, had an overall solid season and did not seem to suffer the mega slump like he normally does. I think that his 2007 output is most likely what his ceiling is although I feel like he could hit a few more homeruns.</p> <p>MLBFO: Agree. 20 homeruns for Huff is possible, but not likely. I'd expect similar numbers to last year and anything else will be a bonus.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 550 AVG: .280 HR: 15 RBI: 72 R: 68 SB: 1</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 575 AVG: .280 HR: 20 RBI: 80 R: 75 SB: 1</p>	

1B Richie Sexson, Seattle	Age: 33 Size: 6'8" 237
<p>FM: I'm not going to go crazy here. Here's what to expect... 30+ HR with an average under .265. Think the AL version of Adam Dunn but a worse average and at the end of his prime. Huge monster size, ton of power, but strikes out too much. He'll leave you dissatisfied and kill your teams' average. However, don't be surprised if Sexson increases on his terrible 2007 stats because his potential suggests otherwise.</p> <p>MLBFO: Again, I agree with the FM. At age 33, Sexson is just coming out of his prime years, but should be able to better last years disappointing fantasy production.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 434 AVG: .205 HR: 21 RBI: 63 R: 58 SB: 1</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 450 AVG: .260 HR: 30 RBI: 85 R: 70 SB: 0</p>	

1B/OF Chris Duncan, St. Louis	Age: 26 Size: 6'5" 230
<p>MLBFO: The kid can't hit lefties for his life, which limits his playing time. However, against right handed pitchers he's deadly hitting 20 homeruns in 295 AB. That's right, he only hit one off of left handed pitching.</p> <p>FM: Duncan makes a nice NL Only player who can hold down your CI slot or be a nice player off the bench in mixed leagues when the mach up is right. Duncan has sleeper 30+HR potential and he'll most likely land an everyday job in the OF.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 375 AVG: .259 HR: 21 RBI: 70 R: 51 SB: 2</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 375 AVG: .270 HR: 20 RBI: 70 R: 50 SB: 0</p>	

1B Mike Jacobs, Florida	Age: 27 Size: 6'2" 200
<p>MLBFO: Jacobs is a fringe fantasy player at best in mixed leagues. In NL only leagues you better have someone else on your roster to because Jacobs isn't exciting anybody.</p> <p>FM: Was great down the stretch in '07 but his swing has more holes than the Major Deegan Expressway! Lots of K's but does possess 30+HR power if he can smarten.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 426 AVG: .265 HR: 17 RBI: 54 R: 57 SB: 1</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 450 AVG: .260 HR: 18 RBI: 55 R: 60 SB: 0</p>	

1B Ross Gload, Kansas City	Age: 31 Size: 6'1" 190
<p>FM: The KC first base job is up for grabs but Gload filled in admirably in the second half. Could see some competition from Ryan Shealy. The good thing about Gload is that he was a .300+ hitter in the minors, so 500+ AB could give Gload some fantasy potential.</p> <p>MLBFO: Kansas City played Alex Gordon at first last year as well and he could again steal at bats from Gload. The Royals could decide to move Teahen back to 3B and Gordon over to first if Gload and Shealy don't pan out.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 320 AVG: .288 HR: 7 RBI: 51 R: 37 SB: 2</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 500 AVG: .290 HR: 15 RBI: 80 R: 80 SB: 5</p>	

1B Nick Johnson, Washington	Age: 29 Size: 6'3" 225
<p>FM: Missed all of 2007 recovering from a broken leg and hip issues. Assuming he makes it back healthy for spring training, he's probably a .290/20/70 type player in 2008 assuming he gets his full-time job back.</p> <p>MLBFO: Johnson has been plagued by injury, but is now right in the middle of his prime. If he can stay healthy for a full season he could make an excellent late round sleeper in almost any league format. However, finding at bats is going to be difficult between injury and the emergence of Dmitri Young.</p> <p>*2006 Stats: AB: 500 AVG: .290 HR: 23 RBI: 77 R: 100 SB: 10</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 450 AVG: .285 HR: 20 RBI: 70 R: 90 SB: 5</p>	

1B Dmitri Young, Washington	Age: 34 Size: 6'2" 245
<p>FM: NL Comeback player of the year as he filled in for Nick Johnson. I'm not sure he is a .320 hitter since he hadn't hit .300+ since 2001 with the Reds. As it looks now, he'll have to have a good spring to nail down an OF job with Kearns, Milledge, Dukes and Logan already in the mix because he won't be playing 1B.</p> <p>MLBFO: Dmitri Young was spectacular in 460 at bats last year. However, his playing time could be even harder pressed next year with a semi-healthy Nick Johnson. I don't think he will hit .300+ again in 2008.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 460 AVG: .320 HR: 13 RBI: 74 R: 57 SB: 0</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 500 AVG: .285 HR: 15 RBI: 80 R: 80 SB: 0</p>	

1B/OF Brad Wilkerson, Texas	Age: 30 Size: 6'0" 205
<p>FM: Over 100 K in 338 AB does not scream "fantasy stud" but the 20 HR is a treat for those who use Wilkerson in AL Only leagues. This was two consecutive years he couldn't stay healthy and 2008 and he hasn't yet produced a quality season fantasy wise.</p> <p>MLBFO: Wilkerson was supposed to break out and become a good fantasy outfielder, but that never really happened. 25 homeruns could certainly happen, but his bad average almost completely negates the positive value.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 338 AVG: .234 HR: 20 RBI: 62 R: 54 SB: 4</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 450 AVG: .250 HR: 25 RBI: 70 R: 65 SB: 8</p>	

1B Kevin Millar, Baltimore	Age: 36 Size: 6'0" 215
<p>FM: Solid contributor and serviceable fantasy player in AL Only leagues and the deepest mixed leagues. Has 15-20 HR power and plays everyday. He wont kill your team but he wont help much either, just a serviceable player.</p> <p>MLBFO: FM nailed it. He won't help your team much, so why draft him? Go with a higher upside pick here. Millar is 36 and will probably begin to show signs of a decline.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 476 AVG: .254 HR: 15 RBI: 63 R: 63 SB: 1</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 475 AVG: .260 HR: 15 RBI: 70 R: 60 SB: 0</p>	

1B Matt Stairs, Toronto	Age: 39 Size: 5'9" 220
<p>FM: Stairs was actually playing full time towards the end of the season. He has 15+ HR power although he will turn 40 in 2008. Stairs is nothing more than a deeper AL Only league type player.</p> <p>MLBFO: At 39, repeating 20 homeruns for Stairs is going to be a challenge. Especially so because Stairs will struggle to find 400 at bats. Leave him at home and find a higher upside pick.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 357 AVG: .289 HR: 21 RBI: 64 R: 58 SB: 2</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 400 AVG: .275 HR: 18 RBI: 60 R: 60 SB: 0</p>	

Written by
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