



2008 Middle Relief Pitcher & Holds Rankings

Written by

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How Should I use this?

If you are in one of the rare leagues that counts holds, it can be a stat that is often hard to find data and rankings for. This tool is designed to help you decide which players to take when filling out your middle relievers. Like saves, holds are supremely hard to predict from the previous year. In looking for a good opportunity for holds you need to look at a number of pieces of information. First and foremost, you need to look at the pitchers role for the next year. If he is not going to be the primary set-up man, he is probably not a great option. Once you have narrowed down that list, take a look at the Holds Stats from last year. While this step has a number of flaws, taken with a grain of salt, it will give you a good idea as to how teams use their relief pitchers. Finally, take a look at the ERA, WHIP and K totals of the pitchers you determine to have the best shot at accumulating a high amount of holds. With that in mind, we've done the work for you. The 2008 rankings are at the bottom.



Team by Team Set-Up Man Report

AL East:

Orioles – Chad Bradford, Jamie Walker

Red Sox – Hideki Okajima

Yankees – *Joba Chamberlain, Kyle Farnsworth

Rays – Al Reyes

Blue Jays – B.J. Ryan or Jeremy Accardo, Casey Janssen, Scott Downs

AL Central:

White Sox – Octavio Dotel, Scott Linebrink

Indians – Rafael Betancourt

Tigers – Fernando Rodney

Royals – Brett Tomko, Yasuhiko Yabuta

Twins – Matt Guerrier, Pat Neshek, Juan Rincon

AL West:

Angels – Scot Shields, Justin Speier

Athletics – Alan Embree, Joey Devine

Mariners – Brandon Morrow, Sean Green

Rangers – Joaquin Benoit, Kaz Fukumori, Eddie Guardado

NL East:

Braves – Mike Gonzalez, Peter Moylan

Marlins – Taylor Tankersley, Matt Lindstrom

Mets – Aaron Heilman, Duaner Sanchez

Phillies – Tom Gordon

Nationals – Jon Rauch

NL Central:

Cubs – Kerry Wood or Carlos Marmol, Bob Howry

Reds – David Weathers

Astros – Oscar Villarreal, Geoff Geary

Brewers – David Riske, Saloman Torres, Derrick Turnbow

Pirates – Damaso Marte

Cardinals – Ryan Franklin

NL West:

Diamondbacks – Tony Pena, Chad Qualls

Rockies – Brian Fuentes

Dodgers – Jonathan Broxton

Padres – Heath Bell

Giants – Brad Hennessey, Tyler Walker



2007 Holds Leaders (20 or More)

Ex. Player – Holds (IP,ERA,WHIP,K)

1. Brandon Lyon – 35	(74.0, 2.68, 1.24, 40)
2. Heath Bell – 34	(93.2, 2.02, 0.96, 102)
3. Derrick Turnbow – 33	(68.0, 4.63, 1.32, 84)
4. Jon Rauch – 33	(87.1, 3.61, 1.10, 71)
5. Jonathan Broxton – 32	(82.0, 2.85, 1.15, 99)
6. Rafael Betancourt – 31	(79.1, 1.47, 0.76, 80)
7. Scot Shields – 31	(77.0, 3.86, 1.23, 77)
8. Tony Pena – 30	(85.1, 3.27, 1.10, 63)
9. Hideki Okajima – 27	(69.0, 2.22, 0.97, 63)
10. Ryan Franklin – 25	(80.0, 3.04, 1.01, 44)
11. Justin Speier – 24	(50.0, 2.88, 0.96, 47)
12. J.C. Romero – 24	(56.1, 1.92, 1.40, 42)
13. Scott Downs – 24	(58.0, 2.17, 1.22, 57)
14. Casey Janssen – 24	(72.2, 2.35, 1.20, 39)
15. Bob Howry – 22	(81.1, 3.32, 1.17, 72)
16. Aaron Heilman – 22	(86.0, 3.03, 1.07, 63)
17. George Sherrill – 22	(45.2, 2.36, 0.99, 56)
18. Brian Shouse – 21	(47.2, 3.02, 1.26, 32)
19. Jamie Walker – 21	(61.1, 3.23, 1.21, 41)
20. Scott Linebrink – 21	(70.1, 3.71, 1.32, 50)
21. Frank Francisco – 21	(59.1, 4.55, 1.60, 49)
22. Chad Qualls – 21	(82.2, 3.05, 1.32, 78)

2008 Rankings

Tier 1 (30+)

1. Jonathan Broxton
2. Heath Bell
3. Scot Shields
4. Jon Rauch
5. Rafael Betancourt

Tier 2 (25+)

6. Brian Fuentes
7. Al Reyes
8. David Weathers
9. Hideki Okajima
10. Tony Pena

11. Aaron Heilman
12. Carlos Marmol
13. Jeremy Accardo
14. Ryan Franklin
15. Joba Chamberlain

Tier 3 (20+)

16. Octavio Dotel
17. Mike Gonzalez
18. Brad Hennessey
19. Fernando Rodney
20. George Sherrill
21. Damaso Marte
22. David Riske
23. Oscar Villarreal
24. Chad Bradford
25. Tom Gordon

Tier 4 (15+)

26. Alan Embree
27. Joaquin Benoit
28. Brett Tomko
29. Matt Guerrier
30. Taylor Tankersley
31. Kyle Farnsworth

Tier 5 (10+)

32. Casey Janssen
33. Justin Speier
34. Pat Neshek
35. Bob Howry
36. Jamie Walker
37. Chad Qualls
38. Matt Lindstrom
39. Scott Downs
40. Juan Rincon

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