



## A LIMA Plan for you!

Written by  
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You have to credit Ron Shandler with a great idea, an auction strategy where in a normal 12 team, 23 man roster, \$260 budget, 5x5 roto league, you take \$200 and use it for hitting while saving \$60 for pitching! In a snake draft, this is the equivalent of drafting all offense in the first 10-12 rounds or so and loading up on bargain pitchers later. Now, there are ways to do this and ways not to do this! I am going to give you a quick plan of attack, an auction scenario to follow. The players I describe are the ones I like best. Every manager has different values and ideas on different players. The dollar values I use here and the rounds players are drafted are “on average” from mock drafts and real league drafts I have participated in so far this season.

### The LIMA Plan at the Auction

So we have \$260 to spend, \$200 on hitting, \$60 on pitching. Let’s start with hitting....

You have to fill 2C, 1B, 2B, 3B, SS, MI, CI, 5OF, 1DH with \$200, that’s 14 slots at an average of \$14.29. So let’s say we can spend \$14.00 per player. Here is a sample of a great team I have cooked up using the great bargains of 2008. Along with this LIMA Plan, I am “Drafting for Categories” to load up on power and speed. The idea with allotting \$200 to hitting is to really load up overall and have the best hitting squad out there.



Let’s take Justin Morneau at \$26, Aramis Ramirez at \$28, Lance Berkman at \$29 and Carlos Pena at \$20. What we have here is a ton of under-priced power potential. The best about this scenario besides the bargain prices for top talent is the fact that all of these

guys, maybe with the exception of Pena, could potentially hit .300+. But, for the sake of covering our butts, let's assume that these guys all hit in the .275 - .295 range.

C –  
C –  
1B – Justin Morneau \$26  
2B –  
3B – Aramis Ramirez \$28  
SS –  
MI –  
CI – Carlos Pena \$20  
OF – Lance Berkman \$29  
OF –  
OF –  
OF –  
OF –  
DH -

This leaves us with \$97 left to spend on 10 hitters ( $\$200 - \$103 = \$97$ ), that's 9.70 each on average for the remaining \$10.

Let's assume right off the bat that we are going cheap on catchers. Realistically, we have so much power right now that we can take a risk on cheap catchers. Let's assume we can grab Geovany Soto at \$4 and Justin Towles at \$3 and take a risk on potentially solid young players who can hit for average. In an OBP league, you might opt for Kurt Suzuki instead of Towles for example....

**C – Geovany Soto \$4**  
**C – Justin Towles \$3**  
1B – Justin Morneau \$26  
2B –  
3B – Aramis Ramirez \$28  
SS –  
MI –  
CI – Carlos Pena \$20  
OF – Lance Berkman \$29  
OF –  
OF –  
OF –  
OF –  
DH -

That brings us to \$90 left to spend on 8 players at an average of \$11.25.



Now its time to look for speed! This season I am in love with the potential of 27 year old Felipe Lopez who I believe has .275/15/75/90/30+ in there somewhere and I am consistently getting him at \$2 in most auctions. Knowing I will get Lopez so cheap which will boost my average left per player to about \$12, I can certainly splurge \$12-\$15 on Shane Victorino and get about 40+ steals with 50+ potential but I'll have to go cheap on at least one more player like Nate McLouth whose potential of 15HR/30SB I love for \$1.....

C – Geovany Soto \$4  
C – Justin Towles \$3  
1B – Justin Morneau \$26  
2B –  
3B – Aramis Ramirez \$28  
SS –  
MI – Felipe Lopez \$2  
CI – Carlos Pena \$20  
OF – Lance Berkman \$29  
OF – **Shane Victorino \$12**  
OF – **Nate McLouth \$1**  
OF –  
OF –  
DH –

That now gives us \$77 to spend on 5 players at an average of \$15.40.

Now that I have some speed out of the way, I want to work on AVG and/or the Speed/Power combo. I like what Johnny Damon brings to the table because he will lead off just about everyday and he's been super cheap at the auction, so cheap in fact that I have seen him go for \$5 but normally he goes in the \$8-\$10 range. Plus, he brings close to .290/20/20 potential with 100+ runs. I also like Miguel Tejada because he too can be had in the \$10-\$15 range and provide .320/25/100. I can use Tejada simply for the AVG and added power and I don't have to lean on him if he doesn't hit as many homeruns as expected. Let's say I get Tejada at \$12 and Damon at \$8.

- C – Geovany Soto \$4
- C – Justin Towles \$3
- 1B – Justin Morneau \$26
- 2B –
- 3B – Aramis Ramirez \$28
- SS – **Miguel Tejada, \$12**
- MI – Felipe Lopez \$2
- CI – Carlos Pena \$20
- OF – Lance Berkman \$29
- OF – Shane Victorino \$12
- OF – Nate McLouth \$1
- OF – **Johnny Damon \$8**
- OF –
- DH -

This gives us \$57 to spend on 3 players at an average of \$19.

Here is where the fun begins. There are two ways to go about this and both are just as good. First, you can go with \$19 each on the three players and get three solid guys. Or, second, you can spend big on a top gun and get two cheapies with .300+ AVG, 20+HR and 10+SB potential each.....

<p><b>OPTION 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>C – Geovany Soto \$4</li> <li>C – Justin Towles \$3</li> <li>1B – Justin Morneau \$26</li> <li>2B – <b>Robinson Cano \$22</b></li> <li>3B – Aramis Ramirez \$28</li> <li>SS – Miguel Tejada, \$12</li> <li>MI – Felipe Lopez \$2</li> <li>CI – Carlos Pena \$20</li> <li>OF – Lance Berkman \$29</li> <li>OF – Shane Victorino \$12</li> <li>OF – Nate McLouth \$1</li> <li>OF – Johnny Damon \$8</li> <li>OF – <b>Corey Hart \$18</b></li> <li>DH – <b>Chris B. Young \$17</b></li> </ul> <p>This is the safe way. Split up \$57 three ways and spend \$19 or so each could net you three solid players with upside. How about Robinson Cano at</p>	<p><b>OPTION 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>C – Geovany Soto \$4</li> <li>C – Justin Towles \$3</li> <li>1B – Justin Morneau \$26</li> <li>2B – <b>Chase Utley \$40</b></li> <li>3B – Aramis Ramirez \$28</li> <li>SS – Miguel Tejada, \$12</li> <li>MI – Felipe Lopez \$2</li> <li>CI – Carlos Pena \$20</li> <li>OF – Lance Berkman \$29</li> <li>OF – Shane Victorino \$12</li> <li>OF – Nate McLouth \$1</li> <li>OF – Johnny Damon \$8</li> <li>OF – <b>Jeremy Hermida \$5</b></li> <li>DH – <b>Kevin Kouzmanoff \$3</b></li> </ul> <p>This scenario allows you to take some risk but gain a higher reward. You get an extra top-notch player who maybe you got into a small bidding war for.</p>
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<p>\$22 who takes care of your AVG worries while adding 20+HR and 100+ RBI, and two players both with power/speed combos of 20/20 and 30/30 both for just under \$20 each.</p>	<p>Maybe he's \$40, maybe \$43, maybe \$38. Then, Hermida and Kouzmanoff, both who hit .300+ after May could be great bargains. This move is a bit risky but at least you pick up maybe 30-40 more SB's and three players with high average potential. Want to solidify your categories even more??? Take Alfonso Soriano in that OF spot at \$40 and grab at least .300/30/30 with .300/40/40 potential, Kouzmanoff in that DH spot, and Aaron Hill for \$5 or less at 2B. This option may league you with a few bucks left over as well. If that's the case, you may be able to overpay a bit for Shane Victorino who I under-priced a bit at \$12...he could go as high as \$18.</p>
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Now let's take a look at Pitching. You have \$60 to spend and I like to save \$30 for closers, at least two but preferably, but 3 is better to start with. The average price for a solid closer is about \$15 in most leagues. With \$15, you can get Bobby Jenks, Trevor Hoffman, Jose Valverde, Mariano Rivera, Billy Wagner, etc. Spend anywhere from \$15-\$25 and you could get Papelbon, Putz, Nathan and K-Rod, all depending on how managers value closers in your league. Let's say we splurge a few extra bucks and take Putz at \$19 and Nathan at \$18, that's only \$7 over our pitching budget for closers. The idea here is that since we are waiting on starting pitchers and going cheap, we run the risk of selecting less than stellar starting pitchers. Generally, taking sleepers out of the mix, starting pitchers late in the draft or auction may have some upside but are most likely pitchers who either provide slightly higher than average ERA/WHIP or don't strikeout a ton. By bidding on Nathan, Putz, Papelbon or KRod, you are almost assuring your staff an opportunity to keep ERA/WHIP down while providing a few extra K's. So we go with Putz at \$19 and Nathan at \$18....

- P -
- P -
- P -
- P -
- P - J.J. Putz \$19
- P - Joe Nathan \$18
- P -
- P -
- P -

This leaves us with \$23 to spend on 7 pitchers at an average of \$3.29

This is where your true talents as a fantasy baseball manager come into play. You need to make solid picks with starting pitchers that have upside, so we need to try to stay away from the Mike Mussina's and Kenny Rogers' of the world. We want talented and under-priced young stars with upside. At the end, let's add Brian Wilson for a buck for some extra saves early on. We could always trade him later on when our saves lead gets so

large or if Brian Wilson blows up we can trade him to a team that needs saves for a decent starting pitcher.....

- P -
- P -
- P -
- P -
- P - J.J. Putz \$19
- P - Joe Nathan \$18
- P - **Brian Wilson \$1**
- P -
- P -

Okay, we now have \$22 left for 6 slots at an average of \$3.66.

Let's pick three \$1 players who I believe can be super solid this season, are young, and have break out potential.....

- P -
- P -
- P -
- P - **Kevin Slowey \$1**
- P - J.J. Putz \$19
- P - Joe Nathan \$18
- P - Brian Wilson \$1
- P - **Jon Lester \$1**
- P - **Zach Greinke \$1**

This leaves us with \$19 with three slots left to fill at an average of \$6.33.

I'd like to take one more dollar player who I believe is tremendously undervalued while having the potential to make a huge comeback, and that's Barry Zito who I can grab for a buck....

- P -
- P -
- P - **Barry Zito \$1**
- P - Kevin Slowey \$1
- P - J.J. Putz \$19
- P - Joe Nathan \$18
- P - Brian Wilson \$1
- P - Jon Lester \$1
- P - Zack Greinke \$1

We now have \$18 for two pitchers at an average of \$9 each.

With two slots left and \$18, I can get two solid players both at \$9 each with Phil Hughes and Francisco Liriano. Two young pitchers with great stuff and a ton of upside....

P – **Francisco Liriano \$9**

P – **Phil Hughes \$9** (Could go with Joba, McGowan or Wang here as well)

P – Barry Zito \$1

P – Kevin Slowey \$1

P – J.J. Putz \$19

P – Joe Nathan \$18

P – Brian Wilson \$1

P – Jon Lester \$1

P – Zack Greinke \$1

So there you have a solid pitching staff with a TON of upside. My thought is that if you plan to do a high risk strategy like the LIMA Plan, its best to go for upside with your cheap staff and 2008 provides for a lot of cheap talent with potential at the end of an auction. You still have guys like Matt Garza and Randy Johnson both have potential and can be \$4 or less, Ian Kennedy you can take a shot on, Dontrelle Willis and Jeremy Bonderman could be \$5 or less..... there are plenty of useful pitchers who can provide solid stats.

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