



## 2008 NL STARTING PITCHERS RANKINGS

### NL Only Rankings & Analysis

Written by

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| SP Johan Santana, New York  | Age: 29 Size: 6'0" 210 |
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| <p><b>FM:</b> Now with the Mets, Santana is back to being a late first round pick while going 1<sup>st</sup> overall in some drafts. Is it wise to draft Santana in the 1<sup>st</sup>? It really depends on your strategy. However, if you can make up the potential offensive stats you are missing from that first round hitter later on in the draft, he's worth a shot early. Also, expect to pay in the \$35-\$40+ range in auction leagues.</p> <p><b>MLBFO:</b> While I'm not touching any starting pitchers in the early rounds of the draft due to the depth at the position, Santana warrants a 1st round pick. In fact, Santana may still be the best all around fantasy player out there. However, he still occasionally slips into the mid-2<sup>nd</sup> round which could turn out to be a steal.</p> <p><b>2007 Stats:</b>      <b>IP:</b> 219 <b>W-L:</b> 15-13 <b>ERA:</b> 3.33 <b>WHIP:</b> 1.07 <b>K:</b> 235 <b>SV:</b> 0</p> <p><b>2008 Potential:</b> <b>IP:</b> 220 <b>W-L:</b> 19-8 <b>ERA:</b> 2.90 <b>WHIP:</b> 0.99 <b>K:</b> 230 <b>SV:</b> 0</p> |                        |



**SP Jake Peavy, San Diego****Age: 26 Size: 6'1" 182**

**MLBFO:** Some feel Peavy might just be better than Santana. At age 26, Peavy has hit his prime running and isn't looking back. There are many more years of great things to come from him. Actually, a lot of his success came from a little luck so expect him to give up slightly more homeruns in 2008. However, he plays in PETCO, so how many could he really give up?

**FM:** I'm not so sure Peavy is "better" than Johan but he is quite spectacular. I worry about Peavy because 2007 was the first season he's put together where he's been a monster in every category. No doubt is he the "No. 2" SP in the league, but understand some of these categories could take a slight hit....or, there is potential to be better. I'd rather pay the extra \$4-\$6 for Santana though, especially since he is now on a winning team!

**2007 Stats:** IP: 223.1 ERA: 2.54 W: 19 WHIP: 1.06 K: 240 SV: 0

**2008 Potential:** IP: 220.0 ERA: 3.00 W: 18 WHIP: 1.15 K: 230 SV: 0

**SP Brandon Webb, Arizona****Age: 28 Size: 6'2" 228**

**MLBFO:** At age 28, Webb already has a CY Young to his name and in 2007 he posted another great campaign. He shows nothing that would make anyone think to expect anything different in 2008. He's created his career with an extreme amount of groundballs and uses his secondary off-speed pitches well.

**FM:** When forced to make a decision, I'd say Webb is more durable and a safer pick over say Beckett or Sabathia. The D-Backs are primed to make another run so expect Webb to be awesome....again! Draft by the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup>/early 4<sup>th</sup> and spend about \$20-\$24.

**2007 Stats:** IP: 236.1 ERA: 3.01 W: 18 WHIP: 1.19 K: 194 SV: 0

**2008 Potential:** IP: 230.0 ERA: 3.00 W: 20 WHIP: 1.17 K: 190 SV: 0

**SP Cole Hamels, Philadelphia****Age: 23 Size: 6'3" 175**

**MLBFO:** Hamels has emerged as a bright new start in the NL pitching sky. At only 23, Hamels has already posted a sub-3.50 campaign. He struggled with an injury for a while, but in the end that might be a positive as he only posted 183.1 innings.

**FM:** This guy has some real potential...Jake Peavy potential. Two problems he faces is durability and the small pitchers park in Philly. I probably wouldn't worry about the small park, as much as the brittleness. The potential for 20 wins is there thanks to a great offense and now with Brad Lidge, a much better bullpen. Expect to pay about \$20.

**2007 Stats:** IP: 183.1 ERA: 3.39 W: 15 WHIP: 1.12 K: 177 SV: 0

**2008 Potential:** IP: 200.0 ERA: 3.35 W: 15 WHIP: 1.10 K: 180 SV: 0



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| <b>SP Carlos Zambrano, Chicago Cubs</b>  | <b>Age: 26 Size: 6'5" 255</b> |
| <p><b>MLBFO:</b> Zambrano struggled mightily in 2007, but he's still only 26 and has more than 200 K potential. His only down sides are his temper and the fact that he's been worked like a horse. With that being said, expect improvement from his 3.95 ERA in 2008.</p> <p><b>FM:</b> Zambrano is a bit of a sleeper this year, as strange as it sounds. He's easily got 200IP/200K potential and he seems to have been dropped in the rankings, but not sure why. Chalk up 2007 as down year(even though stats say it wasn't), this cat is getting better...as are the Cubbies! You might be able to steal C-Zam for about \$15-\$17 at the auction but he's definitely worth \$20-\$23</p> <p><b>2007 Stats:</b> IP: 216.1 ERA: 3.95 W: 18 WHIP: 1.33 K: 177 SV: 0</p> <p><b>2008 Potential:</b> IP: 220.0 ERA: 3.75 W: 18 WHIP: 1.30 K: 190 SV: 0</p> |                               |

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| <b>SP John Smoltz, Atlanta</b>  | <b>Age: 40 Size: 6'3" 220</b> |
| <p><b>MLBFO:</b> The NL pitching crop up to this point has been relatively young, but all those pitchers would be lucky to age as Smoltz has. At age 40, health is always a concern, but he hasn't really shown signs of his age. Expect only slight regression from Smoltz.</p> <p><b>FM:</b> I agree with Smoltz although there are some others I might even rank higher like Oswalt and Harang. Assuming Smoltz stays on the field, he should post comparable numbers to 2007 while possibly increasing his win total a few.</p> <p><b>2007 Stats:</b> IP: 205.2 ERA: 3.11 W: 14 WHIP: 1.18 K: 197 SV: 0</p> <p><b>2008 Potential:</b> IP: 200.0 ERA: 3.45 W: 12 WHIP: 1.20 K: 190 SV: 0</p> |                               |

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| <b>SP Dan Haren, Arizona</b>  | <b>Age: 27 Size: 6'5" 220</b> |
| <p><b>MLBFO:</b> Haren's split stats show that he went from the clear front half Cy Young to just an average pitcher in the second half. However, a closer look at his peripherals and we see that it was really a result of a couple of strayed stats. We can account a large portion of Haren's poor 2nd half to bad luck and expect great things from him next year in ARI.</p> <p><b>FM:</b> I usually like pitchers who go from the AL to the NL and Haren is no exception. The knock on Haren is that he is not a second half guy. Maybe in 2008 he'll straighten out but if he gets off to a strong start again, consider dumping him by mid-season. Now with the D-Backs, a team that plans on winning, expect more opportunities for wins. Otherwise, his breakout 2007 makes him a sweet pick sometime after the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> round in 12 team snake drafts and about \$20 at the auction.</p> <p><b>2007 Stats:</b> IP: 222.7 ERA: 3.07 W: 15 WHIP: 1.21 K: 192 SV: 0</p> <p><b>2008 Potential:</b> IP: 218.0 ERA: 3.20 W: 18 WHIP: 1.20 K: 200 SV: 0</p> |                               |

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| <b>SP Aaron Harang, Cincinnati</b>   | <b>Age: 29 Size: 6'7" 275</b> |
| <p><b>MLBFO:</b> Harang makes a great mid-round addition to any team. His strikeout totals are always outstanding and make up for his ERA that isn't quite as good as the guys listed before him.</p> <p><b>FM:</b> Yup, Brad said it best. Harang will have 12 K's in a game but give up 5 ER, then, come out next week and throw a shutout with 5 K's. Still, the Reds expect to be better this season offensively and now with a legitimate top-notch closer, Harang could increase that win total to possibly 18+.</p> <p><b>2007 Stats:</b> IP: 231.2 ERA: 3.73 W: 16 WHIP: 1.14 K: 218 SV: 0</p> <p><b>2008 Potential:</b> IP: 218.0 ERA: 3.65 W: 17 WHIP: 1.22 K: 200 SV: 0</p> |                               |

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| <b>SP Roy Oswalt, Houston</b>  | <b>Age: 30 Size: 6'0" 185</b> |
| <p><b>MLBFO:</b> Oswalt had another great ERA, low strikeout campaign. His WHIP of 1.33 is what really drops him down to this level. We don't have any big secret that leads us to rank him here; we just don't think he's as valuable as he was ranked last year. However, he has the potential to improve on last years numbers.</p> <p><b>FM:</b> I think the Astros overall had a down year and that's what possibly contributed Oswalt to really only being great in the ERA category. He's only 30 and certainly has potential to get that WHIP under 1.30 with 15+ wins. The K total probably won't get back to the 200K mark but you never know. Like Zambrano, Oswalt slips a bit in drafts and auctions.</p> <p><b>2007 Stats:</b> IP: 212.0 ERA: 3.18 W: 14 WHIP: 1.33 K: 154 SV: 0</p> <p><b>2008 Potential:</b> IP: 210.0 ERA: 3.20 W: 15 WHIP: 1.25 K: 160 SV: 0</p> |                               |

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| <b>SP Matt Cain, San Francisco</b>   | <b>Age: 23 Size: 6'3" 234</b> |
| <p><b>MLBFO:</b> Cain was ranked alongside Hamels and the like last year and did nothing to show that he should be ranked any lower this year. His value is only slightly hurt by a low K/9 rate and the fact that he plays for the Giants.</p> <p><b>FM:</b> In leagues that count losses, you might want to shy away. However, in traditional 5x5 roto leagues, Cain is a great value sometime between rounds 10-14 in mixed league snake drafts. He's only 23 and the Giants are somewhat in rebuilding mode making Cain a fantastic long-term keeper.</p> <p><b>2007 Stats:</b> IP: 200.0 ERA: 3.65 W: 7 WHIP: 1.26 K: 163 SV: 0</p> <p><b>2008 Potential:</b> IP: 200.0 ERA: 3.60 W: 11 WHIP: 1.25 K: 180 SV: 0</p> |                               |

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| <b>SP Chris Young, San Diego</b>   | <b>Age: 28 Size: 6'10" 260</b> |
| <p><b>MLBFO:</b> Young isn't going to blow 200 by anyone, but he is good for a decent ERA and WHIP. Expect another good campaign from Young in 2008, but with regression. His second half numbers were significantly worse than his first half numbers. In fact, 7 of his 9 wins came in the first half and his ERA regressed more than two full points from 2.08 to 4.28.</p> <p><b>FM:</b> Young was fantastic up until late in the season when he was bogged down by injuries. Assuming he can stay on the field, Young can provide top-notch numbers. His monster frame isn't anything to sneeze at and he's just entering his prime. Steal this guy for \$10-\$15 at the auction and laugh your way to a championship!</p> <p><b>2007 Stats:</b> IP: 173.0 ERA: 3.12 W: 9 WHIP: 1.10 K: 167 SV: 0</p> <p><b>2008 Potential:</b> IP: 190.0 ERA: 3.20 W: 14 WHIP: 1.20 K: 180 SV: 0</p> |                                |

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| <b>SP Rich Hill, Chicago Cubs</b>  | <b>Age: 27 Size: 6'5" 205</b> |
| <p><b>MLBFO:</b> Hill became the poster-boy sleeper pick last season and saw his stock rise as high as round 10 in some leagues last year. He disappointed some with his 3.92 ERA, but that isn't anything to be ashamed of. He should improve that ERA. He has a nasty curve, but needs to keep the ball on the ground in order to really improve in '08.</p> <p><b>FM:</b> There's no reason Hill can't be better in 2008. He certainly has great stuff, great size, and he's only 27, so he has much going for him right now. Lucky for you, you can steal Hill sometime between rounds 11-14 in mixed league drafts while he's costing</p> |                               |

about \$12 in the auction. Cubs will be better this year and will make a playoff run and I'll be willing to bet that Hill has something to do with that!

**2007 Stats:** IP: 195.0 ERA: 3.92 W: 11 WHIP: 1.19 K: 183 SV: 0

**2008 Potential:** IP: 200.0 ERA: 3.65 W: 13 WHIP: 1.20 K: 200 SV: 0

**SP Tim Lincecum, San Francisco**

**Age: 23 Size: 5'11" 170**

**MLBFO:** Lincecum pitched 146.1 big league innings last year and posted a 4.00 ERA, but he looked a heck of a lot better than that. In those 146.1 innings he earned 150 strikeouts and is well on his way to being one of the best in not only the NL, but the entire league. All in all, his stuff is what fantasy leaguers dream about, but he may be so hyped up by draft time that he is actually over-valued.

**FM:** Lincecum definitely has the stuff, but unfortunately, he doesn't have the team. Expect his ERA/WHIP to improve, maybe beyond what we've projected, but shy away in non-keeper leagues that count losses.

**2007 Stats:** IP: 146.1 ERA: 4.00 W: 7 WHIP: 1.28 K: 150 SV: 0

**2008 Potential:** IP: 200.0 ERA: 3.80 W: 12 WHIP: 1.25 K: 200 SV: 0

**SP Brett Myers, Philadelphia**

**Age: 27 Size: 6'4" 238**

**MLBFO:** Myers made the transition from starter to closer last year and his numbers look iffy at best. Although, if you watched him pitch he looked great. The move back to starter should be just what the Doctor ordered and he should be good for at least 200 strikeouts.

**FM:** I wouldn't draft Myers this high, this must be Brad's doing. There's just something about Myers that doesn't make sense. He missed nearly all of last year, tried to come back at one point and that failed. He never had surgery like every pitcher who gives up 12 runs in 2 innings back to back and then goes on the DL. I'm being sarcastic there. What I do know is that you can steal Myers dirt cheap at the auction (under \$10) and towards the end of your snake draft. The potential for 200K/15+ wins, but be careful with the injury stuff.

**2007 Stats:** IP: 68.2 ERA: 4.33 W: 5 WHIP: 1.28 K: 83 SV: 21

**2008 Potential:** IP: 200.0 ERA: 3.90 W: 13 WHIP: 1.30 K: 200 SV: 0

**SP Adam Wainwright, St. Louis**

**Age: 26 Size: 6'7" 228**

**MLBFO:** Wainwright was another sleeper pick last year who didn't quite live up to the hype. If he can raise his K/9 and improve on a 1.40 WHIP, he should be in for a big year. We think he can get better. Honestly, the skills are all there and the stats will follow. It's only going to get better from here. The Cardinals managed to get in Reyes' head, but Wainwright seems unaffected. He has a much better overall attitude than Reyes.

**FM:** Just look at Wainwright's numbers in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half. Then look and see where he is being drafted (sometimes after the 15<sup>th</sup>) and for less than \$5 in most auctions. Look for an increase across the board and a sleeper yet again.

**2007 Stats:** IP: 202.0 ERA: 3.70 W: 14 WHIP: 1.40 K: 136 SV: 0

**2008 Potential:** IP: 200.0 ERA: 3.60 W: 12 WHIP: 1.33 K: 160 SV: 0

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| <b>SP Yovani Gallardo, Milwaukee</b>   | <b>Age: 21 Size: 6'1" 209</b> |
| <p><b>MLBFO:</b> Gallardo posted superb numbers in his limited major league time in 2007. He'll get his first full season under his belt in 2008 and he won't disappoint. At age 21, he is already the best pitcher on the Brewer's staff. If he could turn a couple fly balls into a groundballs he might be able to find an ERA around 3.00.</p> <p><b>FM:</b> I agree! Fantastic stuff, young, killer upside...what's not to like. If you have to decide, yes, I'd select Gallardo over Lincecum simply because of supporting staff. He might miss a few weeks with the knee injury but should be fine once he gets going in mid-late April.</p> <p><b>2007 Stats:</b> IP: 110.1 ERA: 3.67 W: 9 WHIP: 1.27 K: 101 SV: 0</p> <p><b>2008 Potential:</b> IP: 180.0 ERA: 3.50 W: 14 WHIP: 1.20 K: 190 SV: 0</p> |                               |

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| <b>SP Ian Snell, Pittsburgh</b>   | <b>Age: 26 Size: 5'11" 190</b> |
| <p><b>MLBFO:</b> Snell managed a great ERA and solid strikeout total during 208 innings. At only age 26 this could be a legitimate breakout year for Snell. However, he does play for the Pirates and thus isn't likely to get many more than 10 wins.</p> <p><b>FM:</b> I think we'll get a bit of a surprise from the Pirates this year and that could translate into a better overall season for Snell. I wouldn't say playoffs but I think they will slightly improve from 2007. Be careful, with a lack of win, I'm not sure he's worth the \$13 price tag. If you ask me, that's a bit over valued simply because he's a Pirate.</p> <p><b>2007 Stats:</b> IP: 208.0 ERA: 3.76 W: 9 WHIP: 1.33 K: 177 SV: 0</p> <p><b>2008 Potential:</b> IP: 220.0 ERA: 3.60 W: 10 WHIP: 1.25 K: 200 SV: 0</p> |                                |

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| <b>SP Chad Billingsley, Los Angeles Dodgers</b>   | <b>Age: 23 Size: 6'1" 245</b> |
| <p><b>MLBFO:</b> Billingsley pitched both out of relief and as a starter last year which contributed to his low IP total. He was superb in both roles and will spend the entire year in the rotation this year. However, look for the Dodgers to cap Billingsley around 180 innings. His end numbers are great, but the ride getting there could be a bit shaky.</p> <p><b>FM:</b> In 2009 you will all be thanking me for endorsing Billingsley. They guy has been nothing but great whenever the Dodgers have given him a chance. Finally he will be counted on for a full season. Billingsley is someone you want to spend \$10-\$12 in auction keeper leagues so you have him cheap for 2009. Once Hill, Snell, Lincecum and Gallardo are gone, look to Billingsley for an upside pick.</p> <p><b>2007 Stats:</b> IP: 147.0 ERA: 3.31 W: 12 WHIP: 1.33 K: 141 SV: 0</p> <p><b>2008 Potential:</b> IP: 180.0 ERA: 3.60 W: 14 WHIP: 1.30 K: 175 SV: 0</p> |                               |

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| <b>SP Tom Gorzelanny, Pittsburgh Pirates</b>   | <b>Age: 25 Size: 6'2" 219</b> |
| <p><b>MLBFO:</b> Gorz was another sleeper favorite from last year that could stand to raise his K/9 a touch. 14 wins on the Pirates is also a bit deceiving, I'd expect similar numbers with a more modest win total next year. Honestly, Gorzelanny has all the skills to be great, but sometimes lefties take a little longer to develop. His peripherals are right on the edge, but I wouldn't worry about it too much.</p> <p><b>FM:</b> I have put a lot of stock in some of my deeper keeper leagues in Gorzelanny. He doesn't appear to be a great pitcher and being a Pirate has something to do with that, but he's a guy you can grab at the end of your draft or for a buck and just leave in your rotation all season as an 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> pitcher. There have also been rumblings that Gorz can</p> |                               |

also be the ace of that staff over Snell at some point. He's only 25!

**2007 Stats:** IP: 201.2 ERA: 3.88 W: 14 WHIP: 1.40 K: 135 SV: 0

**2008 Potential:** IP: 200.0 ERA: 3.85 W: 12 WHIP: 1.34 K: 150 SV: 0

**SP Brad Penny, Los Angeles Dodgers** Age: 29 Size: 6'4" 260

**MLBFO:** People forget how good Penny was in 2004. He clearly has the stuff to do it again, but he hasn't been able to put it together for more than a year at a time before. That being said, he kept the ball down in the first half and had a great half. It got away from him in 2<sup>nd</sup> half and his 2<sup>nd</sup> half ERA was two full points lower than his 1<sup>st</sup> half ERA.

**FM:** Penny is falling super cheap in auctions at about \$8 - \$10. That seems a bit cheap being that he has ace stuff with 200IP potential. The ERA will be there, the WHIP will come down and the wins will increase....but the K's might only slightly increase. He's still worth the \$8-\$10 for the win potential.

**2007 Stats:** IP: 208.0 ERA: 3.03 W: 16 WHIP: 1.31 K: 135 SV: 0

**2008 Potential:** IP: 200.0 ERA: 3.50 W: 16 WHIP: 1.35 K: 140 SV: 0

**SP Tim Hudson, Atlanta** Age: 32 Size: 6'1" 170

**MLBFO:** Hudson was worked like a dog, but he can handle it. However, 132 strikeouts in 224.1 innings pitched just aren't going to cut it in fantasy. If you have other high strikeout options, Hudson is a good ERA boost for your team.

**FM:** I'm not a big fan. Last year seemed like smoke and mirrors to me. I'm not buying this season but if he lands under \$10, he's worth a look.

**2007 Stats:** IP: 224.1 ERA: 3.33 W: 16 WHIP: 1.22 K: 132 SV: 0

**2008 Potential:** IP: 220.0 ERA: 3.75 W: 14 WHIP: 1.30 K: 130 SV: 0

**SP Derek Lowe, Los Angeles Dodgers** Age: 34 Size: 6'6" 230

**MLBFO:** At 34, Lowe doesn't have a whole lot of upside, but a 3.88 ERA and a 1.27 WHIP certainly has value. His strikeout total isn't going to blow anyone away, but at the very least the Dodgers should be good enough for him to get another 12 wins.

**FM:** A great middle-of-your-fantasy-rotation pitcher. Solid ERA/WHIP but lacks K potential. I think the wins increase because of a better overall team and Joe Torre (I'm a believer). Lowe is a steal in most drafts after the 16<sup>th</sup> and for under \$7.

**2007 Stats:** IP: 199.1 ERA: 3.88 W: 12 WHIP: 1.27 K: 147 SV: 0

**2008 Potential:** IP: 220.0 ERA: 3.85 W: 12 WHIP: 1.30 K: 145 SV: 0

**SP John Maine, New York Mets** Age: 26 Size: 6'4" 200

**MLBFO:** Don't forget that Maine was a top prospect before bursting on to the scene this year. The numbers were not just luck, the guy can pitch. Look for the Mets to extend him beyond 200 innings next year.

**FM:** Maine will be more consistent this season, plain and simple. He has skills and if the Mets don't land Johan, Maine is the ace! Should be ranked 3-4 spots higher.

**2007 Stats:** IP: 191.0 ERA: 3.91 W: 15 WHIP: 1.27 K: 180 SV: 0

**2008 Potential:** IP: 210.0 ERA: 3.80 W: 15 WHIP: 1.25 K: 190 SV: 0

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| <b>SP Ben Sheets, Milwaukee</b>   | <b>Age: 29 Size: 6'1" 218</b> |
| <p><b>MLBFO:</b> Sheets is an ace when he is healthy, which isn't often. If he could manage to stay healthy he'd be a top 10 pitcher. In the end it comes down to whether or not you're willing to take that gamble with a high pick.</p> <p><b>FM:</b> I pass! K's and WHIP is his thing but he can't stay on the field. He's the Rich Harden of the NL.</p> <p><b>2007 Stats:</b> IP: 141.1 ERA: 3.82 W: 12 WHIP: 1.24 K: 106 SV: 0</p> <p><b>2008 Potential:</b> IP: 170.0 ERA: 3.90 W: 12 WHIP: 1.25 K: 160 SV: 0</p> |                               |

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| <b>SP Jeff Francis, Colorado</b>  | <b>Age: 26 Size: 6'5" 205</b> |
| <p><b>MLBFO:</b> Francis has almost all of the peripherals on his side. He's got the upside to find himself an ERA under 4, but that's a small chance. He should, however, be able to improve upon last seasons output.</p> <p><b>FM:</b> Every mag/web site will have Francis as some kind of sleeper, but take a minute to review his stats of the past 2-3 seasons. The 17 wins were nice in '07, but the 4.00+ERA and the 1.35+WHIP don't get me excited, especially when the previous years were just as bad. The potential is there and I'd definitely pay a buck or two, but I'm not going to over-extend myself to get him. The upside here is that this will be his 3<sup>rd</sup> season, a time where some analysts say a starting pitcher may dramatically improve.</p> <p><b>2007 Stats:</b> IP: 215.1 ERA: 4.22 W: 17 WHIP: 1.38 K: 165 SV: 0</p> <p><b>2008 Potential:</b> IP: 220.0 ERA: 4.05 W: 16 WHIP: 1.35 K: 170 SV: 0</p> |                               |

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| <b>SP Greg Maddux, San Diego</b>   | <b>Age: 41 Size: 6'0" 180</b> |
| <p><b>MLBFO:</b> Maddux continues to be the same pitcher despite the age. His deceptive stuff despite the speed makes the aging process much better. He never was much of a strikeout pitcher either. He has a good ballpark to help keep the few fly balls he gives up in play. Honestly, if he wanted to he could play for another eight to ten years.</p> <p><b>FM:</b> What you are hoping for with Maddux is quality starts. 6+IP, 2-3ER max, a couple of K's and a win. He's serviceable, someone to draft as a 9<sup>th</sup> pitcher or as a reserve for emergencies. Should be cheap and available late in the snake draft. Me personally, I'd opt for a great reliever like Jonathon Broxton whose 6IP, 0ER, 7K, 2H, 0BB in a week is more valuable than one start from Maddux going 6IP, 3ER, 2K, 8H, 1BB</p> <p><b>2007 Stats:</b> IP: 198.0 ERA: 4.14 W: 14 WHIP: 1.24 K: 104 SV: 0</p> <p><b>2008 Potential:</b> IP: 200.0 ERA: 4.00 W: 12 WHIP: 1.24 K: 100 SV: 0</p> |                               |

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| <b>SP Pedro Martinez, New York Mets</b>   | <b>Age: 36 Size: 5'11" 193</b> |
| <p><b>MLBFO:</b> Martinez came back at the end of last year stronger than anyone could have anticipated. He piled up 32 strikeouts in 28 innings pitched. While by no stretch of the imagination am I inferring he can do that over a full season, it is a good sign he's healthy. The projection below is certainly his upside; there is also a ton of risk involved.</p> <p><b>FM:</b> Here's a guy who I feel will contribute more than people expect. The 200K seasons are gone but 150+K is not out of the question. There is much risk here as with guys like Randy Johnson and Curt Schilling, but I think Pedro will have more luck than say Rich Harden, Ben Sheets and Mark Prior.</p> <p><b>2007 Stats:</b> IP: 28.0 ERA: 2.57 W: 3 WHIP: 1.43 K: 32 SV: 0</p> <p><b>2008 Potential:</b> IP: 160.0 ERA: 3.50 W: 13 WHIP: 1.20 K: 150 SV: 0</p> |                                |

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| <b>SP Oliver Perez, New York Mets</b>   | <b>Age: 26 Size: 6'3" 217</b> |
| <p><b>MLBFO:</b> Perez is still young, and managed a great K/9 rate that's probably not repeatable next year. I'd expect a solid but not great season from Perez.</p> <p><b>FM:</b> Try not to jump on the "Debbie Downer" Bandwagon with Brad. Perez was great last year considering the woes of the previous two seasons. Perez has major upside and he hasn't even reached his prime yet. He has 200IP/200K potential and no doubt has the ability to keep his ERA under 4. Not to mention, Perez has one of the best pitching coaches in the majors in Rick Peterson. Expect upside here, not downside. By the way, the projections below are Brad's. I think Perez can do 200IP, 3.60ERA, 17W, 1.30WHIP, 200K or better. I am a believer that Perez has turned it around and 2008 can potentially be one of his best seasons ever....and he's super cheap on draft day! He's worth the risk!</p> <p><b>2007 Stats:</b> IP: 177.0 ERA: 3.56 W: 15 WHIP: 1.31 K: 174 SV: 0</p> <p><b>2008 Potential:</b> IP: 200.0 ERA: 4.10 W: 13 WHIP: 1.40 K: 190 SV: 0</p> |                               |

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| <b>SP Ted Lilly, Chicago Cubs</b>   | <b>Age: 31 Size: 6'1" 190</b> |
| <p><b>MLBFO:</b> Lilly proved last year how bad the NL Central is compared to the AL East. However, now that NL batters have a better read of Lilly, expect a slight regression from last year's numbers. Essentially, a lot would have to go right for him to repeat especially in hitter friendly Wrigley Field.</p> <p><b>FM:</b> I like how all of the pitchers this far down the list are all in regression, and most are still in their 20's. Anyway, I like Lilly to maybe keep his WHIP down but is a big plus this far down the list. The Cubs expect to be better, or at least I am high on the Cubs being better and thus am high on the top Cubs players being better fantasy wise. I expect Lilly to be decent. He's not a leader for your staff but if he can keep his WHIP down, he'll help with Wins too. He's a \$10 SP at the auction but I wouldn't go crazy much past that.</p> <p><b>2007 Stats:</b> IP: 207.0 ERA: 3.83 W: 15 WHIP: 1.14 K: 174 SV: 0</p> <p><b>2008 Potential:</b> IP: 200.0 ERA: 4.10 W: 15 WHIP: 1.30 K: 160 SV: 0</p> |                               |

|   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>SP Barry Zito, San Francisco</b>   | <b>Age: 29 Size: 6'4" 210</b> |
| <p><b>MLBFO:</b> Zito didn't have a whole lot of fantasy value even when he had a sub-4 era. And while I fully expect him to improve on his 4.53 ERA next year, he still doesn't have a whole lot of value due to low K rates.</p> <p><b>FM:</b> Barry Zito is on everyone's You-Know-What List, which means on draft day he is super cheap. Zito is one of The Fantasy Man's best sleepers for '08. You can snag him for a buck and after the 16<sup>th</sup> round in most drafts. My thought process simply is this..... How can a guy who just signed a \$100Million+ contract be this bad? I just feel he has much to improve and still has one of the most devastating curveballs around. Don't expect many wins because the Giants blow, but expect every other category to improve.</p> <p><b>2007 Stats:</b> IP: 196.2 ERA: 4.53 W: 11 WHIP: 1.35 K: 131 SV: 0</p> <p><b>2008 Potential:</b> IP: 220.0 ERA: 4.20 W: 12 WHIP: 1.30 K: 150 SV: 0</p> |                               |

|   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| <b>SP Randy Johnson, Arizona</b>  | <b>Age: 44 Size: 6'10" 231</b> |
| <p><b>MLBFO:</b> Randy Johnson looked like a stud in the first half last year, but then he succumbed to the injury bug once again. His age and health are certainly the biggest</p> |                                |

concerns with Johnson and his mixed league draft worthiness may be coming to a close. Draft with caution or let him fall and pick him up if he proves he can be useful for one more year.

**FM:** Randy should be available after the 16<sup>th</sup> round in most 12 team snake drafts and can be had for under \$5 in auctions. He's definitely worth the risk, but the risk is high.

Unfortunately, he's 44, which means you could probably expect a few missed starts.

**2007 Stats:** IP: 57.0 ERA: 3.81 W: 4 WHIP: 1.15 K: 72 SV: 0

**2008 Potential:** IP: 150.0 ERA: 4.30 W: 10 WHIP: 1.35 K: 140 SV: 0

**SP Homer Bailey, Cincinnati**

**Age: 21 Size: 6'4" 205**

**MLBFO:** The top Reds prospect wasn't too great in limited time in 2007, but he's only 21 and will definitely have a rotation spot in 2008. Expect good numbers in 2007 until Dusty Baker can ruin him like he did Prior and Wood. In fairness to Bailey, he struggled with a groin injury for most of the year. Don't forget how highly touted he was in '06.

**FM:** Bailey has the stuff but I'm not buying unless I steal him for a buck. There are other prospects I like. But if you like Bailey's potential, He's worth an over the top bid or \$2 or even \$3 if you like to gamble.

**2007 Stats:** IP: 45.1 ERA: 5.76 W: 4 WHIP: 1.57 K: 28 SV: 0

**2008 Potential:** IP: 155.0 ERA: 4.00 W: 10 WHIP: 1.28 K: 135 SV: 0

**SP Bronson Arroyo, Cincinnati**

**Age: 31 Size: 6'5" 194**

**MLBFO:** If you take out three starts in May, Arroyo's statistics start to look a lot better including a 3.56 ERA. However, Arroyo can't seem to get over the couple of starts that plague him yearly. I predict a rebound, but not significant as the numbers may suggest.

**FM:** Tough to say what this guy does in 2008. He has the size, still in his prime and the Reds should be a better team overall. This one is a coin toss for me but should be available for a buck at the auction.

**2007 Stats:** IP: 210.2 ERA: 4.23 W: 9 WHIP: 1.40 K: 156 SV: 0

**2008 Potential:** IP: 200.0 ERA: 3.90 W: 12 WHIP: 1.35 K: 150 SV: 0

**SP Chuck James, Atlanta**

**Age: 26 Size: 6'0" 170**

**MLBFO:** James was another sleeper pick last year. However, he only totaled 161.1 innings. Expect the Braves to extend him to at least 180 innings and he's only 26 so it would seem his ERA is set to improve. However, his peripherals say the opposite. I'm predicting similar numbers for James.

**FM:** I actually think he could come close to the 200IP mark, maybe work on that ERA a bit and increase those K's if he wins a job out of spring training. Great thing is James is still young and he's super cheap on draft day. Keep an eye on him as he might have to beat out Jair Jurrjens and Mike Hampton for a job.

**2007 Stats:** IP: 161.1 ERA: 4.24 W: 11 WHIP: 1.38 K: 161 SV: 0

**2008 Potential:** IP: 150.0 ERA: 4.30 W: 9 WHIP: 1.33 K: 145 SV: 0

**SP Doug Davis, Arizona**

**Age: 32 Size: 6'4" 209**

**MLBFO:** Davis was almost as good in August and September as he was in '04 and '05, but those moments have become few and far between now. Don't expect Davis to build from September, but rather start over again with a few of those flashes mixed in.

**FM:** Davis is a soft tosser and I know that if I can hit him, then I definitely don't want him on my fantasy team. Overall ERA/WHIP makes him waiver wire material. Don't waste a pick. Instead, grab a young SP with some potential to stash on your bench like Manny Parra, Edgar Gonzalez or Carlos Villanueva. NL Only leagues maybe, but I'd pass in mixed leagues.

**2007 Stats:** IP: 192.2 ERA: 4.25 W: 13 WHIP: 1.59 K: 144 SV: 0

**2008 Potential:** IP: 200.0 ERA: 4.35 W: 12 WHIP: 1.50 K: 155 SV: 0

**SP Micah Owings, Arizona**

**Age: 25 Size: 6'5" 220**

**MLBFO:** He was brought up to Arizona because he was AAA player that was too major league ready to not bring into a weak rotation. He had some amount of success and if it weren't for a terrible July, the numbers would look even better. That being said, he doesn't have the skills to keep that up year after year.

**FM:** This guy is a monster and can hit. The D-backs expect to contend like I mention before and after a full year of experience, you have to expect improvements. He could be a sleeper in the K department and he should be quite serviceable in NL Only leagues.

**2007 Stats:** IP: 152.2 ERA: 4.30 W: 8 WHIP: 1.28 K: 106 SV: 0

**2008 Potential:** IP: 200.0 ERA: 4.30 W: 12 WHIP: 1.35 K: 130 SV: 0

**SP Aaron Cook, Colorado**

**Age: 28 Size: 6'3" 215**

**MLBFO:** Cook had an oblique strain which shut him down last year, but he did enough to peak the interest of the fantasy community. There's more risk than possible upside here, but he is an interesting play as a sub-4 ERA is not completely out of the question.

**FM:** Cook had some games there that made of think he could overcome what I call the Colorado Jinx. Can anyone remember any pitcher who has really been successful in Colorado? My question is....Has it been poor talent? Or, is it still the small dimensions of the field? Probably a combination of both. Regardless, Cook will probably improve slightly in 2008, but I'd put my stock in Ubaldo Jimenez and Franklin Morales first.

**2007 Stats:** IP: 166.0 ERA: 4.12 W: 8 WHIP: 1.34 K: 61 SV: 0

**2008 Potential:** IP: 180.0 ERA: 3.95 W: 10 WHIP: 1.35 K: 65 SV: 0

**SP Shawn Hill, Washington**

**Age: 27 Size: 6'2" 185**

**MLBFO:** If you haven't heard of Shawn Hill, you're seriously missing out. Excluding his chronic arm problems, Hill has pretty much everything going for him. His 2<sup>nd</sup> half ERA wasn't great, but you can probably attribute that to an inflated HR per fly ball percentage and a little wear on his arm.

**FM:** His lack of K's will hurt but could be a cheap source for low ERA/WHIP.

**2007 Stats:** IP: 97.0 ERA: 3.42 W: 4 WHIP: 1.14 K: 65 SV: 0

**2008 Potential:** IP: 140.0 ERA: 3.90 W: 6 WHIP: 1.30 K: 85 SV: 0

**SP Jeff Suppan, Milwaukee**

**Age: 32 Size: 6'2" 220**

**MLBFO:** Jeff Suppan remains stable and unspectacular. He usually plays better in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half. His 3.88 ERA in August-September leaves a shiver of hope for improvement, but I wouldn't count on it too much.

**FM:** He's serviceable. Scroll up and see what I wrote about Greg Maddux. Your better

off trusting a top quality middle reliever for a week than one star from Suppan.

**2007 Stats:** IP: 206.2 ERA: 4.62 W: 12 WHIP: 1.50 K: 114 SV: 0

**2008 Potential:** IP: 200.0 ERA: 4.30 W: 11 WHIP: 1.45 K: 110 SV: 0

**SP Kyle Kendrick, Philadelphia**

**Age: 23 Size: 6'3" 190**

**MLBFO:** Kendrick burst onto the scene last year and it will cause fantasy owners to overdraft him on draft day. His peripheral stats don't support his fantasy stats from last year, so we're likely to see a drop in production in his second year. He's a groundball pitcher who puts the fate of his ERA in the hands of his infield.

**FM:** I'm not a buyer here but Kendrick does have age and a great offense working for him. I might take a last round flier on Kendrick and hope for lightning in a bottle. If not, just wait for the waiver wire.

**2007 Stats:** IP: 121.0 ERA: 3.87 W: 10 WHIP: 1.27 K: 49 SV: 0

**2008 Potential:** IP: 200.0 ERA: 4.25 W: 12 WHIP: 1.35 K: 90 SV: 0

**SP Chris Capuano, Milwaukee**

**Age: 29 Size: 6'2" 219**

**MLBFO:** Capuano was especially terrible last year, which makes him a good buy low opportunity. If Milwaukee gives him the playing time, he could be a decent NL only pitcher. Fantasy players will be scared off by his 0-10 stretch after May 13, but if he lasts late into your NL only draft, grab him.

**FM:** If I remember correctly, Capuano started off the year strong, winning his first 5 games and then bombing the rest of the way as Brad mentioned. Capuano is another sleeper pick and again is super cheap on draft day. I'd certainly spend a buck to find out if last year was a fluke. Plus, the Brewers will be good and that's a big help.

**2007 Stats:** IP: 150.0 ERA: 5.10 W: 5 WHIP: 1.49 K: 132 SV: 0

**2008 Potential:** IP: 160.0 ERA: 4.35 W: 10 WHIP: 1.35 K: 140 SV: 0

**SP Hiroki Kuroda, Los Angeles Dodgers**

**Age: 33 Size: 6'1" 190**

**MLBFO:** Japanese pitchers are always over hyped coming into the majors due to fact that there's usually a one year adjustment period needed (See Matsuzaka, Daisuke). The fact that Kuroda is already 33 doesn't leave much time for this adjustment period and his stats already took a serious hit in Japan in 2007. Overall, not much value here.

**FM:** I'm passing all together only because I saw what happened to Kei Igawa with the Yankees and Joe Torre. I just don't want to take a chance here.

**2007 Japanese Stats:** IP: 180.0 ERA: 4.41 W: 12 WHIP: 1.34 K: 117 SV: 0

**2008 Potential:** IP: 200.0 ERA: 4.30 W: 9 WHIP: 1.30 K: 120 SV: 0

**SP Dave Bush, Milwaukee**

**Age: 28 Size: 6'2" 209**

**MLBFO:** The reason every year people think Dave Bush is going to be a stud and every year he disappoints is quite hard to find. However, it seems to be his inability to pitch out of the stretch. Could this be the year he rectifies the situation? Sure, but odds are against him.

**FM:** Pass!! However, there were some rumblings that Bush could be a possible closer. Obviously Milwaukee is stacked with Turnbow, Gagne, and Riske, but they are all risky

as well. Bush is more a dark horse to close in Milwaukee or else where but I'd leave him on the waiver wire for now.

**2007 Stats:** IP: 186.1 ERA: 5.12 W: 12 WHIP: 1.40 K: 134 SV: 0

**2008 Potential:** IP: 200.0 ERA: 4.40 W: 12 WHIP: 1.30 K: 145 SV: 0

**SP Jason Bergmann, Washington**

**Age: 26 Size: 6'4" 190**

**MLBFO:** Bergmann has become one of the best known pitchers on the Nationals, but that isn't saying much. Perhaps the reason people know his name is because of his immense upside. Only about 25% of his starts are in the medium range, the other 75% are either extraordinary or terrible, with a slight edge to the great ones. As the people around baseball like to say: once you do it once, you know you have it. Bergmann has great upside, but you need to understand the kind of risk you're taking on.

**FM:** I'm not going to get that crazy. Maybe a solid upside pick in NL Only leagues but late in mixed league drafts, I'm still opting for Oliver Perez and Barry Zito. Maybe he's worth a buck depending on what magazine you follow but I'd leave him on the waiver wire and looked towards someone younger with more upside and K potential.

**2007 Stats:** IP: 115.1 ERA: 4.45 W: 6 WHIP: 1.22 K: 86 SV: 0

**2008 Potential:** IP: 175.0 ERA: 4.40 W: 9 WHIP: 1.30 K: 130 SV: 0

**SP Orlando Hernandez, New York Mets**

**Age: 41 Size: 6'2" 220**

**MLBFO:** His numbers look great on the surface, but the peripherals are not nearly as delightful. A tiny Hit % likely led to his great season and thus, big regression is to be expected in 2008. Plus, with the FB % he touts, a move to a friendlier park for pitchers would really help him. Note the age as well. All in all just too much risk for collapse.

**FM:** Isn't El Duque like 52? All I know is he cannot stay on the field which means good things for Mike Pelfrey. Draft for a buck or in the last round as a reserve. When he's hot, he's almost un-hittable. Trick is, he has to get past the first two innings to get in a groove. Either he gives up 7ER in the first, or you get 6 IP and 1ER.

**2007 Stats:** IP: 147.2 ERA: 3.72 W: 9 WHIP: 1.17 K: 128 SV: 0

**2008 Potential:** IP: 180.0 ERA: 4.50 W: 10 WHIP: 1.40 K: 135 SV: 0

**SP Paul Maholm, Pittsburgh**

**Age: 25 Size: 6'2" 230**

**MLBFO:** With a few less homeruns, Maholm could turn into a good pitcher. However, theirs still the problem of playing in Pittsburgh. He'll need to amp up his K-rate as well.

**FM:** Waiver wire material.

**2007 Stats:** IP: 177.2 ERA: 5.02 W: 10 WHIP: 1.42 K: 105 SV: 0

**2008 Potential:** IP: 200.0 ERA: 4.40 W: 10 WHIP: 1.35 K: 120 SV: 0

**SP Zach Duke, Pittsburgh**

**Age: 24 Size: 6'2" 220**

**MLBFO:** He played through elbow tendinitis last year and eventually hit the DL because of it. He was better after he returned from the DL, but that was a short 18 inning stretch. I'll need to see a little more consistency from him before I buy back in, but the upside is there.

**FM:** There is upside with age, but he's late NL Only or waiver wire material.

**2007 Stats:** IP: 107.1 ERA: 5.53 W: 3 WHIP: 1.73 K: 41 SV: 0

**2008 Potential:** IP: 131.0 ERA: 4.50 W: 6 WHIP: 1.59 K: 70 SV: 0

|  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| <b>SP Chris Carpenter, St. Louis</b>   | <b>Age: 32 Size: 6'6" 230</b> |
| <p><b>MLBFO:</b> Obviously everyone knows Carpenter's story for 2008. He'll miss at least half of the season recovering from Tommy John Surgery. He was terrible in the beginning of 2007, but that is clearly due to his injury. He has the talent, but even if he comes back before August, he won't be 100% and so he doesn't have a whole lot of value in 2008.</p> <p><b>FM:</b> If you play in a league with deep benches, draft Carpenter late and stash away, especially in keeper leagues. In 2009 you could potentially have a top notch starting pitcher for \$1.</p> <p><b>2007 Stats:</b> IP: 6.0 ERA: 7.50 W: 0 WHIP: 1.67 K: 3 SV: 0</p> <p><b>2008 Potential:</b> IP: 60.0 ERA: 3.80 W: 5 WHIP: 1.28 K: 40 SV: 0</p> |                               |

#### The Best of the Rest:

Mike Pelfrey – 6'7" size, great stuff, could win the 5<sup>th</sup> spot  
Ubaldo Jimenez – Brad says no better than 4.70ERA, FM says 4.00 or better!  
Mark Prior – Same ole' thing as Padres giving him a chance, so you never know.  
Jon Lieber – It's downhill from here, don't expect an ERA under 4.40 if he finds a job.  
Kyle Lohse – Lohse has the upside of a league average innings eater, don't overdraft.  
Braden Loper – Was great in April then crashed. No reason to expect better.  
Noah Lowry – Peripherals spoke a different story than his ERA. Look for regression.  
Tom Glavine – Expect more regression from Glavine in '08  
Ryan Dempster – Even if he makes rotation, he has little value.  
Matt Albers – Should show improvement over last years numbers, but not too much.  
Brandon Backe – Post TJ, wasn't that good before it. TJ Surgery doesn't work miracles.  
Jason Marquis – Last year's first half will seem like a very long time ago after 2008.  
Sean Marshall – Can be an effective number four or five in a weak NL Central.  
Andrew Miller – Isn't ready for the big leagues, but will be there. Temper expectations.  
Sergio Mitre – Great first half, horrible second half. He could find a 4.50 ERA.  
Franklin Morales – Risk outweighs reward and he pitches in Coors.  
Matt Morris – Could improve slightly over last year, but likely won't top 4.50 ERA.  
Jamie Moyer – Will be lucky to keep his ERA below 4.80 in 2008.  
Mark Mulder – See Moyer.  
Ricky Nolasco – Elbow trouble cut last season short. No surgery is a promising sign.  
Scott Olsen – At age 24, has upside if he gets his act together.  
Manny Parra – If he can make the rotation, the kid could be really good. Lot's of risk.  
Carlos Villanueva – Will have to beat out Parra and Capuano for the 5<sup>th</sup> spot.  
John Patterson – Has had surgery in both of the past two seasons. Likely will again.  
Yusmeiro Petit – Arizona is not a friendly place for a fly ball pitcher, watch out.  
Anthony Reyes - Could earn a spot in the rotation despite bad play. Draft with caution.  
Wandy Rodriguez – Primed for a breakout season in 2008? Stats say maybe, gut says no.  
Jason Schmidt – Was Horrendous last year, but return to a 4.50 ERA sounds about right.  
Claudio Vargas – Liked him more in 2007, but will give up a lot of HR.  
Randy Wolf – Got hurt again last year, no reason to think he won't again in 2008.  
Jamie Moyer – Yuck!