



2008 Prospect Rankings & Analysis

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OF Jay Bruce, Cincinnati -- ETA: 2008

Team	League	AVG	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB	OBP	SLG	OPS
SAR	FSL	.325	268	49	11	49	4	.379	.586	.965
CHA	SOU	.333	66	10	4	15	2	.405	.652	1.057
LOU	INT	.305	187	28	11	25	2	.358	.567	.925
Minors		.319	521	87	26	89	8	.375	.587	.962

Bruce can hold his own in center but projects as a corner outfielder who will hit for a good average with great power. Bruce is probably the best pure hitter of a great 2005 draft class. He doesn't have the base stealing capabilities of a Maybin or Upton, but he will hold his own on the paths. Bruce will likely hit 40 homeruns at the peak of his career.

3B Evan Longoria, Tampa Bay -- ETA: 2008

Team	League	AVG	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB	OBP	SLG	OPS
MON	SOU	.307	381	78	21	76	4	.403	.528	.930
DUR	INT	.269	104	19	5	19	0	.398	.490	.889
Minors		.299	485	97	26	95	4	.402	.520	.921

Longoria should make the Devil Rays' big league roster out of Spring Training as the starting 3B. He projects for a good average and a good amount of power. The Devil Rays have a ton of young talent and even so, Longoria could become the face of the franchise.

OF Cameron Maybin, Florida -- ETA: 2008

Team	League	AVG	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB	OBP	SLG	OPS
TIG	GCL	.571	7	1	0	1	0	.667	.571	1.238
LAK	FSL	.304	296	58	10	44	25	.393	.486	.879
ERI	EAS	.400	20	9	4	8	0	.538	1.050	1.588
Minors		.316	323	68	14	53	25	.409	.523	.932
MLB		.143	49	8	1	2	5	.208	.265	.473

Although Maybin's rough big league appearance last season may not suggest it, he is the real deal. However, he probably isn't ready to be a big league starter yet. Nonetheless, he'll be thrown into action this year as the starting center fielder for a young Marlins team. Maybin is a true 5-tool talent. He doesn't have the power of the two players listed before him, but he makes up for it on the base paths.

SP Clayton Kershaw, Los Angeles -- ETA: 2009

Team	League	W	L	ERA	G	SV	IP	BB	SO	AVG
GLL	MID	7	5	2.77	20	0	97.1	50	134	.203
JAX	SOU	1	2	3.65	5	0	24.2	17	29	.193
Minors		8	7	2.95	25	0	122.0	67	163	.201

Kershaw is not only the best left handed pitcher, but scouts say he'd probably still be the best pitching prospect even if he was right handed. He has a combination of stuff, mound presence and size that is unmatched in the minors. He could reach the majors this year.

SP Joba Chamberlain -- ETA: 2008

Team	League	W	L	ERA	G	SV	IP	BB	SO	AVG
TAM	FSL	4	0	2.03	7	0	40.0	11	51	.181
TRE	EAS	4	2	3.35	8	0	40.1	15	66	.218
SWB	INT	1	0	0.00	3	0	8.0	1	18	.179
Minors		9	2	2.45	18	0	88.1	27	135	.198
MLB		2	0	0.38	19	1	24.0	6	34	.145

Chamberlain dominated the minors, was called up to the majors, and dominated the majors. He'll be left in the bullpen to start the season in order to limit his innings, but once they unleash him as a starter...watch out! Chamberlain has absolutely electric stuff and throws four pitches for strikes. He has the makeup of a starter, not of a closer and will eventually find himself as a #1 or #2 in the Yankees' rotation.

SP Clay Buchholz, Boston – ETA: 2008

Team	League	W	L	ERA	G	SV	IP	BB	SO	AVG
POR	EAS	7	2	1.77	16	0	86.2	22	116	.180
PAW	INT	1	3	3.96	8	0	38.2	13	55	.221
Minors		8	5	2.44	24	0	125.1	35	171	.193
MLB		3	1	1.59	4	0	22.2	10	22	.184

After tossing a no-hitter in Buchholz first start, he caught the attention of fantasy owners everywhere. However, the normal word of caution is necessary: Wait, who are we kidding, this is Clay Buchholz! The Red Sox Minor League Pitcher of the Year combines very good stuff along with a very good mound presence into what will soon become a front of the rotation starter.

OF Colby Rasmus, St. Louis – ETA: 2008

Team	League	AVG	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB	OBP	SLG	OPS
SPR	TEX	.275	472	93	29	72	18	.381	.551	.932
Minors		.275	472	93	29	72	18	.381	.551	.932

Rasmus offers a power and speed combo that is rarely seen and with the departure of Jim Edmonds, he'll have a chance to prove it sooner than expected. Rasmus is going to be a stud, if not in '08, then very shortly thereafter.

OF Andrew McCutchen, Pittsburgh – ETA: 2008

Team	League	AVG	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB	OBP	SLG	OPS
ALT	EAS	.258	446	70	10	48	17	.327	.383	.710
IND	INT	.313	67	7	1	5	4	.347	.418	.765
Minors		.265	513	77	11	53	21	.329	.388	.717

The scouts agree: McCutchen has 5-tool talent, plays gold glove caliber defense and is versatile enough to lead off or bat cleanup. What's not to like? He'll likely be up at some point in 2008 because, well, the Pirates really don't have a whole lot to lose. He's still young, but give him a year or two and you'll see why he's so highly touted.

SP Homer Bailey, Cincinnati – ETA: 2008

Team	League	W	L	ERA	G	SV	IP	BB	SO	AVG
LOU	INT	6	3	3.07	12	0	67.1	32	59	.204
SAR	FSL	0	1	10.13	2	0	8.0	5	7	.385
Minors		6	4	3.82	14	0	75.1	37	66	.229
MLB		4	2	5.76	9	0	45.1	28	28	.257

Bailey struggled last year in the majors and spent part of the season injured, but don't let it fool you. Bailey has great stuff and a good mound presence. There's only one reason for concern: Dusty Baker. That being said, Dusty seems more concerned with "clogging up the base paths" this year, so perhaps he won't have time to ruin his young starters.

SP Adam Miller, Cleveland – ETA: 2008

Team	League	W	L	ERA	G	SV	IP	BB	SO	AVG
BUF	INT	5	4	4.82	19	0	65.1	21	68	.265
Minors		5	4	4.82	19	0	65.1	21	68	.265

Miller will still only be 23 during the 2008 season, despite what seems like a lifetime streak of injuries. Still, when he's 100% he has front of the rotation stuff with a mid-upper 90s fastball leading the way. If he can stay healthy for any extended period of time, he'll be able to call Cleveland home.

SP David Price, Tampa Bay – ETA: 2009

Team	League	W	L	ERA	G	SV	IP	BB	SO	AVG
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DNP

How can we rank someone with no minor league experience so high? That's how good Price is. And, it's a testament to how big league ready 2007's #1 overall pick is. Price has a great makeup and great stuff. If all goes well he'll be starting in TB in no time.

OF Jacoby Ellsbury, Boston – ETA: 2008

Team	League	AVG	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB	OBP	SLG	OPS
POR	EAS	.452	73	16	0	13	8	.518	.644	1.162
PAW	INT	.298	363	66	2	28	33	.360	.380	.740
Minors		.323	436	82	2	41	41	.387	.424	.811
MLB		.353	116	20	3	18	9	.394	.509	.902

Ellsbury moved fast through the minors and will compete with Coco Crisp for playing time this year (unless they trade Crisp which is starting to seem unlikely). He has tremendous speed on the basepaths and will hit for a great average. However, he doesn't have as much power as many of the other players on this list.

OF Travis Snider, Blue Jays – ETA: 2009

Team	League	AVG	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB	OBP	SLG	OPS
LAN	MID	.313	457	72	16	93	3	.377	.525	.902
Minors		.313	457	72	16	93	3	.377	.525	.902

It's not often that you come upon a player that you can flat out say: This kid can rake. But, Snider is that player. He was taken directly out of high school and has hit well ever since.

SP Wade Davis, Tampa Bay – ETA: 2009

Team	League	W	L	ERA	G	SV	IP	BB	SO	AVG
VER	FSL	3	0	1.84	13	0	78.1	21	88	.196
MON	SOU	7	3	3.15	14	0	80.0	30	81	.249
Minors		10	3	2.50	27	0	158.1	51	169	.223

The big right hander has plus stuff and a good mound presence. He'll reach Tampa Bay sooner rather than later (we say 2009, but possibly 2008) and he'll have an immediate impact. David is going to be a key in what is becoming a very good rotation.

SP Rick Porcello, Detroit – ETA: 2010

Team	League	W	L	ERA	G	SV	IP	BB	SO	AVG
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DNP

The Tigers are thanking their lucky stars they nabbed Porcello. He was arguably the best arm in the draft, but dropped to them at the end of the 1st because of signability issues. The kid is for real.

SP Franklin Morales, Colorado – ETA: 2008

Team	League	W	L	ERA	G	SV	IP	BB	SO	AVG
TUL	TEX	3	4	3.48	17	0	95.2	45	77	.226
CSP	PCL	2	0	3.71	3	0	17.0	13	16	.323
Minors		5	4	3.51	20	0	112.2	58	93	.241
MLB		3	2	3.43	8	0	39.1	14	26	.241

Morales is a power left who holds himself with great poise on the mound. He spent last year refining his secondary pitches and the improvement was clear. He has plus stuff and is ready to prove it at the big league level. Morales could be a big contributor in 2008.

OF Fernando Martinez, New York – ETA: 2009

Team	League	AVG	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB	OBP	SLG	OPS
MTS	GCL	.111	9	1	0	1	0	.200	.333	.533
BIN	EAS	.271	236	32	4	21	3	.336	.377	.713
Minors		.265	245	33	4	22	3	.331	.376	.706

Martinez spent all of last year injured, but is still considered one of the best prospects in the game. The Mets have pushed him ever since they drafted him and they will likely continue to push and push. Martinez will likely hit NY by 2009 and not look back.

SP Nick Adenhardt, Los Angeles – ETA: 2008

Team	League	W	L	ERA	G	SV	IP	BB	SO	AVG
ARK	TEX	10	8	3.65	26	0	153.0	65	116	.273
Minors		10	8	3.65	26	0	153.0	65	116	.273

Adenhardt has been through a lot in his career. After being drafted in the 14th round, he had Tommy John surgery. Nonetheless, the Angels now find themselves with one of the top prospects in all of baseball. He's also major league ready.

SS/3B Brandon Wood, Los Angeles – ETA: 2008

Team	League	AVG	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB	OBP	SLG	OPS
SLC	PCL	.272	437	73	23	77	10	.338	.497	.835
Minors		.272	437	73	23	77	10	.338	.497	.835
MLB		.152	33	2	1	3	0	.152	.273	.424

Wood's stock has fallen a bit from a year ago when he was everyone's favorite prospect. Nonetheless, the Angels still have a talented youngster on their hands. If he can cut down on the strikeouts, he can still make something of his career.

SP Jacob McGee, Tampa Bay – ETA: 2009

Team	League	W	L	ERA	G	SV	IP	BB	SO	AVG
VER	FSL	5	4	2.93	21	0	116.2	39	145	.203
MON	SOU	3	2	4.24	5	0	23.1	13	30	.224
Minors		8	6	3.15	26	0	140.0	52	175	.207

McGee is the other part of the reason that the Devil Rays rotation will be so good in a couple of years. The fact that he is rated lower than Wade Davis means little. Its still a tossup as to who will have the better career. Both players have a ton of talent as evidenced by McGee's 175 Ks in 140 IP.

C Matt Wieters, Baltimore – ETA: 2009

Team	League	AVG	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB	OBP	SLG	OPS
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DNP

Wieters was one of the highest touted prospects coming into last years draft and the Orioles won't regret drafting him. He has the defense to stay at catcher and the offense to play 1B. That's a good combo. Too, he will be on the fast track to the majors and will likely debut in 2009.

SP Carlos Carrasco, Philadelphia – ETA: 2009

Team	League	W	L	ERA	G	SV	IP	BB	SO	AVG
CLE	FSL	6	2	2.84	12	0	69.2	22	53	.199
REA	EAS	6	4	4.86	14	0	70.1	46	49	.247
Minors		12	6	3.86	26	0	140.0	68	102	.224

Carrasco is an electric pitcher who could easily be ranked higher on this list. He will likely debut in 2009 for the Phillies and could have instant success much like that of Cole Hamels. Hamels and Carrasco will make up what could become a great 1-2.

SS/3B Mike Moustakas, Kansas City – ETA: 2010

Team	League	AVG	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB	OBP	SLG	OPS
IDF	PIO	.293	41	6	0	10	0	.383	.439	.822
Minors		.293	41	6	0	10	0	.383	.439	.822

Moustakas was the Royals first round pick in 2007, but signed soon enough to get some at bats in. He played decent in the time, but he has more power than was represented. A good average with 30 homeruns is likely.

OF Carlos Gonzalez, Oakland – ETA: 2009

Team	League	AVG	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB	OBP	SLG	OPS
MOB	SOU	.286	458	63	16	75	9	.330	.476	.806
TUC	PCL	.310	42	9	1	11	1	.396	.500	.896
Minors		.288	500	72	17	86	10	.336	.478	.814

Gonzalez has great talent, but also comes with a slight attitude issue. He's still young so this may not be a problem in the long term. He was a big piece of the trade that sent Dan Haren to Arizona and he may get a chance to prove himself in Oakland sooner rather than later.

SP Gio Gonzalez, Oakland – ETA: 2008

Team	League	W	L	ERA	G	SV	IP	BB	SO	AVG
BIR	SOU	9	7	3.18	27	0	150.0	57	185	.216
Minors		9	7	3.18	27	0	150.0	57	185	.216

Gonzalez has been traded more times in his young career than many major league players. However, this isn't a knock on his talent. Rather, a tribute to how good he is. Perhaps he finally has a home in Oakland.

SP Eric Hurley, Texas – ETA: 2008

Team	League	W	L	ERA	G	SV	IP	BB	SO	AVG
FRI	TEX	7	2	3.25	15	0	88.2	27	76	.219
OKL	PCL	4	7	4.91	13	0	73.1	28	59	.236
Minors		11	9	4.00	28	0	162.0	55	135	.227

Hurley stats may not look great, but they looked great before two awful starts to end the year. Hurley can likely get back on track in 2008 and make an impact in Texas at some point; they certainly need him.

SP Ian Kennedy, New York – ETA: 2008

Team	League	W	L	ERA	G	SV	IP	BB	SO	AVG
TAM	FSL	6	1	1.29	11	0	63.0	22	72	.183
TRE	EAS	5	1	2.59	9	0	48.2	17	57	.163
SWB	INT	1	1	2.08	6	0	34.2	11	34	.205
Minors		12	3	1.91	26	0	146.1	50	163	.182
MLB		1	0	1.89	3	0	19.0	9	15	.191

Sometimes with players from New York, you worry about the New York hype. This isn't the case with Ian Kennedy. As his minor league numbers show, the kid has had absolutely electric stuff across all levels of the minors and in his short debut in the majors. Kennedy is ready to contribute in 2008, which is good because they Yankees are relying on him.

1B Joey Votto, Cincinnati – ETA: 2008

Team	League	AVG	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB	OBP	SLG	OPS
LOU	INT	.294	496	74	22	92	17	.381	.478	.859
Minors		.294	496	74	22	92	17	.381	.478	.859
MLB		.321	84	11	4	17	1	.360	.548	.907

Votto has a great deal of talent and is extremely ready for major league playing time. The Reds will likely give Votto the job out of spring training and let him test manager Dusty Bakers patience.

3B Josh Vitters, Chicago – ETA: 2010

Team	League	AVG	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB	OBP	SLG	OPS
CUB	AZL	.067	30	0	0	2	0	.094	.067	.160
BOI	NOR	.190	21	2	0	1	1	.261	.190	.451
Minors		.118	51	2	0	3	1	.164	.118	.281

Vitters is another product of the 2007 draft. He has one of the best bats out of the draft class and because of that, the Cubs drafted him despite having Aramis Ramirez locked up long term at the position. He didn't play well in his minor league debut, but it's nothing to worry about.

2B Matt Antonelli, San Diego – ETA: 2008

Team	League	AVG	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB	OBP	SLG	OPS
LAK	CAL	.314	347	89	14	54	18	.409	.499	.907
SAN	TEX	.294	187	34	7	24	10	.395	.476	.871
Minors		.307	534	123	21	78	28	.404	.491	.894

Antonelli is on the fast track to the big leagues due to his outstanding season last year. Once he reaches the majors (as early as this year) his power might take a hit because he plays in San Diego, but the other stats are likely to remain constant. In other words: He'll still be a stud.

OF Chris Marrero, Washington – ETA: 2009

Team	League	AVG	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB	OBP	SLG	OPS
HAG	SAL	.293	222	31	14	53	0	.337	.545	.882
POT	CAR	.259	255	40	9	35	0	.338	.431	.769
Minors		.275	477	71	23	88	0	.338	.484	.822

Marrero hits for both average and power and also draws a fair amount of walks. His .484 SLG and .338 OBP in the minors last year were very good. He's on the fast track to Washington despite Washington's current outfield log jam. When he's ready, they'll make room for him.

3B Chase Headley, San Diego – ETA: 2008

Team	League	AVG	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB	OBP	SLG	OPS
SAN	TEX	.330	433	82	20	78	1	.437	.580	1.016
Minors		.330	433	82	20	78	1	.437	.580	1.016
MLB		.222	18	1	0	0	0	.333	.278	.611

Headley has always been a good hitter and a top prospect, but 2007 was an enormous step up for this youngster. He developed much more power and is now a much better rounded hitter. This is absolutely necessary at third base where power is a necessity. The only question now is what to do with Kouzmanoff.

SS Reid Brignac, Tampa Bay – ETA: 2009

Team	League	AVG	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB	OBP	SLG	OPS
MON	SOU	.260	527	91	17	81	15	.328	.433	.760
Minors		.260	527	91	17	81	15	.328	.433	.760

Brignac actually fell a little bit on the top prospect list after hitting a poor .260 last season. At one point it looked as if he would get the job in '08, but now '09 seems more likely.

SP Scott Elbert, Los Angeles – ETA: 2009

Team	League	W	L	ERA	G	SV	IP	BB	SO	AVG
JAX	SOU	0	1	3.86	3	0	14.0	10	24	.128
Minors		0	1	3.86	3	0	14.0	10	24	.128

Elbert has plus plus stuff with a great mound presence. The only issue with him is durability concerns. He was set on the fast track to the majors before being injured which will push his debut back. Still, he has great stuff and star potential.

SP Max Scherzer, Arizona – ETA: 2008

Team	League	W	L	ERA	G	SV	IP	BB	SO	AVG
VIS	CAL	2	0	0.53	3	0	17.0	2	30	.089
MOB	SOU	4	4	3.91	14	0	73.2	40	76	.235
Minors		6	4	3.28	17	0	90.2	42	106	.210

Scherzer got an improving arsenal which includes an above-average slider and a changeup that still needs some additional fine-tuning. He'll reach Arizona in late 2008, but probably won't make a big impact until 2009.

C Geovany Soto, Chicago – ETA: 2007

Team	League	AVG	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB	OBP	SLG	OPS
IOW	PCL	.353	385	75	26	109	0	.424	.652	1.076
Minors		.353	385	75	26	109	0	.424	.652	1.076
MLB		.389	54	12	3	8	0	.433	.667	1.100

Most fantasy players already know how good Soto could be and it's evidenced by his rising stock in fantasy drafts. He was a relative nobody before last season when he absolutely dominated the Pacific Coast League and excelled after reaching the majors.

3B Andy LaRoche, Los Angeles – ETA: 2008

Team	League	AVG	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB	OBP	SLG	OPS	
LVG	PCL	.309	265	55	18	48	2	.399	.589	.987	LaRoche has an injury that will keep him out two months. Nonetheless, Laroche seems ready to take over the starting 3B gig – no matter what the Dodgers think about it. Once they finally give in and give him playing time, he could become a better major leaguer than fellow prospect James Loney.
Minors		.309	265	55	18	48	2	.399	.589	.987	
MLB		.226	93	16	1	10	2	.365	.312	.677	

SP Ross Detwiler, Washington – ETA: 2009

Team	League	W	L	ERA	G	SV	IP	BB	SO	AVG	
NAT	GCL	0	0	2.25	4	0	12.0	3	15	.234	Detwiler has outstanding stuff and a well rounded arsenal which includes four pitches (2 seam, 4 seam, curve, changeup). He was called up to the majors after only nine minor league games and although he didn't stay in the majors long, it's a sign that he likely won't spend a whole lot of time in the minors.
POT	CAR	2	2	4.22	5	0	21.1	9	13	.310	
Minors		2	2	3.51	9	0	33.1	12	28	.284	
MLB		0	0	0.00	1	0	1.0	0	1	.000	

SS Elvis Andrus, Texas – ETA: 2009

Team	League	AVG	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB	OBP	SLG	OPS	
MYR	CAR	.244	385	59	3	37	25	.330	.335	.665	Along with Salty, Andrus was one of the big items the Rangers got in return for Mark Teixeira. Andrus has a ton of speed and although he's never going to hit for a ton of power, he plays good enough defense to make up for it.
BAK	CAL	.300	110	19	2	12	15	.369	.373	.742	
Minors		.257	495	78	5	49	40	.338	.343	.682	

SP Chris Volstad, Florida – ETA: 2008

Team	League	W	L	ERA	G	SV	IP	BB	SO	AVG	
JUP	FSL	8	9	4.50	21	0	126.0	37	93	.293	Volstad is known for throwing a lot of strikes and getting a lot of groundballs. Although his minor league numbers from last year don't look spectacular, don't be fooled. Volstad has great stuff and is likely to become a cornerstone in the Marlins rotation.
CAR	SOU	4	2	3.16	7	0	42.2	10	25	.252	
Minors		12	11	4.16	28	0	168.2	47	118	.283	

SP Luke Hochevar, Kansas City – ETA: 2008

Team	League	W	L	ERA	G	SV	IP	BB	SO	AVG	
WIC	TEX	3	6	4.69	17	0	94.0	26	94	.286	Hochevar had a miserable season last year which caused this drop in his stock. Nonetheless, all of the talent is still there its just a matter of putting it all together and finding that end result. He'll likely be pushed into the majors in 2008, which may not be good for his development.
OMA	PCL	1	3	5.12	10	0	58.0	21	44	.244	
Minors		4	9	4.86	27	0	152.0	47	138	.271	
MLB		0	1	2.13	4	0	12.2	4	5	.239	

2B/3B Ian Stewart, Colorado – ETA: 2008

Team	League	AVG	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB	OBP	SLG	OPS	
CSP	PCL	.304	414	72	15	65	11	.379	.478	.857	A natural 3B, Stewart is moving to 2B because he is blocked by Garrett Atkins and he'll be competing for the starting gig in 2008. His bat certainly plays very well at 2B and if he wins the job, he becomes an immediate fantasy sleeper.
Minors		.304	414	72	15	65	11	.379	.478	.857	
MLB		.209	43	3	1	9	0	.261	.372	.633	

SP Radhames Liz, Baltimore – ETA: 2008

Team	League	W	L	ERA	G	SV	IP	BB	SO	AVG	
BOW	EAS	11	4	3.22	25	0	137.0	70	161	.204	Liz throws a moving fastball along with a slider and changeup that fool hitters time and time again. His debut in the majors was less than spectacular, but his minor league numbers were just that. The kid has nasty stuff.
Minors		11	4	3.22	25	0	137.0	70	161	.204	
MLB		0	2	6.93	9	0	24.2	23	24	.260	

C Jeff Clement, Seattle – ETA: 2008

Team	League	AVG	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB	OBP	SLG	OPS
TAC	PCL	.275	455	76	20	80	0	.370	.497	.867
Minors		.275	455	76	20	80	0	.370	.497	.867
MLB		.375	16	4	2	3	0	.474	.813	1.286

Clement hasn't quite lived up to the expectations of many, but 20 homeruns from a catcher is nothing to sneeze at. He is well blocked by Kenji Johjima and may be traded at some point in 2008 if the Mariners find themselves in the running for the playoffs.

SP Johnny Cueto, Cincinnati – ETA: 2008

Team	League	W	L	ERA	G	SV	IP	BB	SO	AVG
SAR	FSL	4	5	3.33	14	0	78.1	21	72	.238
LOU	INT	2	1	2.05	4	0	22.0	2	21	.259
CHA	SOU	6	3	3.10	10	0	61.0	11	77	.231
Minors		12	9	3.07	28	0	161.1	34	170	.239

Some people are going as far as to say that Cueto is a better pitcher than fellow Red, Homer Bailey. While this is likely not the case, it's not a knock on Cueto who is an excellent pitcher in his own right. With Harang, Bailey and Cueto the Reds could have a formidable rotation in 2009.

OF Dexter Fowler, Colorado – ETA: 2010

Team	League	AVG	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB	OBP	SLG	OPS
MOD	CAL	.273	245	43	2	23	20	.397	.367	.765
Minors		.273	245	43	2	23	20	.397	.367	.765

Fowler is like Jacoby Ellsbury in some respects. He has room for his power to improve and he runs extremely well. If he can add more pop Fowler can become a great major league outfielder.

1B/OF Matt LaPorta, Milwaukee – ETA: 2010

Team	League	AVG	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB	OBP	SLG	OPS
HEL	PIO	.259	27	4	2	4	0	.286	.519	.804
WVA	SAL	.318	88	18	10	27	0	.392	.750	1.142
Minors		.304	115	22	12	31	0	.369	.696	1.065

LaPorta is another player who was drafted in the 2007 draft despite being blocked by a star player at the major league level. In this case, he's blocked by Prince Fielder. The Brewers are already moving LaPorta to the outfield in anticipation of a major league arrival in 2010.

C J.R. Towles, Houston – ETA: 2008

Team	League	AVG	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB	OBP	SLG	OPS
SAL	CAR	.200	90	14	0	11	3	.339	.278	.617
COR	TEX	.324	216	47	11	49	9	.425	.551	.976
ROU	PCL	.279	43	5	0	2	2	.354	.279	.633
Minors		.287	349	66	11	62	14	.393	.447	.840
MLB		.375	40	9	1	12	0	.432	.575	1.007

Towles is another catcher most fantasy owners already know about. He offers more speed than Soto does, but a little less upside everywhere else. Regardless, Towles played very well at all levels he was tested at and is ready to become the every day catcher for the Astros. He could be a draft day bargain this year in fantasy drafts.

OF Tyler Colvin, Chicago – ETA: 2009

Team	League	AVG	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB	OBP	SLG	OPS
DAY	FSL	.306	245	38	7	50	10	.336	.514	.850
TEN	SOU	.291	247	34	9	31	7	.313	.462	.774
Minors		.299	492	72	16	81	17	.324	.488	.812

Colvin is not your typical outfield top prospect. He doesn't have a ton of power or a ton of speed and he doesn't have a job waiting for him in the majors. Nonetheless, Colvin makes this list because he is a well rounded player who could contribute at the major league level.

SP Jeff Niemann, Tampa Bay – ETA: 2008

Team	League	W	L	ERA	G	SV	IP	BB	SO	AVG
DUR	INT	12	6	3.98	25	0	131.0	46	123	.277
Minors		12	6	3.98	25	0	131.0	46	123	.277

Niemann's stock has fallen slightly since last year and word is now that he could be used out of the bullpen instead of in the rotation. It seems a waste to use such a good talent there, but they legitimately have 5 better candidates.