



2008 RP CLOSERS RANKINGS

Mixed League Closers Rankings & Analysis

Written by

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RP Francisco Rodriguez, Los Angeles	Age: 26 Size: 6'0" 195
<p>FM: K-Rod is a safe pick, super durable and at times, un-hittable. I don't expect much to change. Stick with what you know, and we know that K-Rod is low risk. Expect to pay anywhere between \$20-\$25 at the auction and anything less is a steal!</p> <p>MLBFO: Can't say it better than the fantasy man! Although, you can probably get him for less than \$20 in the auction because most people don't want to spend big bucks on their closer. Either way, Rodriguez is the safest best at closer, even if Papelbon may have a higher ceiling.</p> <p>2007 Stats: IP: 67.3 W-L: 5-2 ERA: 2.81 WHIP: 1.25 K: 90 SV: 40</p> <p>2008 Potential: IP: 70 W-L: 4-2 ERA: 2.60 WHIP: 1.20 K: 90 SV: 40+</p>	
RP Jonathan Papelbon, Boston	Age: 27 Size: 6'4" 230
<p>FM: K-Rod, Papelbon, and Putz are all interchangeable. Anyone of them can be #1, #2, or #3. Papelbon is a great option because Boston will give him opportunities. The potential for 40+, low ERA/WHIP and 100+K is there. Papelbon is worth the \$20-\$23.</p> <p>MLBFO: I certainly see the argument for Papelbon over Rodriguez. Papelbon is a bigger injury concern, but his potential is also higher. Pitching for Boston, he'll have tons of opportunities for saves and his stuff is such that even if he played for a bad team, he'd still be ranked this high.</p> <p>2007 Stats: IP: 58.3 W-L: 1-3 ERA: 1.85 WHIP: 0.77 K: 84 SV: 37</p> <p>2008 Potential: IP: 65 W-L: 3-3 ERA: 1.80 WHIP: 0.80 K: 90 SV: 40+</p>	
RP J.J. Putz, Seattle	Age: 31 Size: 6'5" 245
<p>FM: I'm looking at Putz to be super effective again. Putz has 100K potential and can be justified if picked #1. Don't spend more than \$18-\$20.</p> <p>MLBFO: You can see the argument for Putz as equal to Rodriguez and Papelbon. His stuff was fantastic last year and there's nothing saying that it won't be again this year. Expect similar numbers.</p> <p>2007 Stats: IP: 71.7 W-L: 6-1 ERA: 1.38 WHIP: 0.70 K: 82 SV: 40</p> <p>2008 Potential: IP: 75 W-L: 5-2 ERA: 1.30 WHIP: 0.90 K: 80 SV: 40+</p>	



RP Joe Nathan, Minnesota	Age: 33 Size: 6'4" 220
<p>FM: Minnesota doesn't project to be that great and if they lose Johan Santana in a trade, it's going to be tough for Nathan to get the opportunities for a 40+ season. He has potential to lead closers in every category, but I think it depends on the team. Still worth about \$18-\$20 though.</p> <p>MLBFO: Look for Nathan to be one of the elite again and draft as if you are expecting 35 saves.</p> <p>2007 Stats: IP: 71.7 W-L: 4-2 ERA: 1.88 WHIP: 1.02 K: 77 SV: 37</p> <p>2008 Potential: IP: 75 W-L: 4-1 ERA: 1.90 WHIP: 1.00 K: 80 SV: 40+</p>	

RP Mariano Rivera, New York	Age: 38 Size: 6'2" 185
<p>FM: In the Expert Mock Auction I did recently posted here in the draft guide, I drafted Bobby Jenks for \$15 and waited and stole Rivera for \$12. A \$12 Mariano Rivera is a freak'n steal! Sure, he's getting older but he's been one of the most durable and consistent closers the past few years while being probably the greatest closer of all-time. He's on the downside of his career but he's still trustworthy and super effective. Last year was a lost year because the entire team stunk and limited Mariano's opportunities dramatically. I believe he has plenty left in the tank to at least get back to his normal production in 2008.</p> <p>MLBFO: Rivera slipping in drafts is ridiculous. He struggled at the beginning of 2007 because the Yankees were failing to give him opportunities to get in the game consistently. However, he still finished with great final numbers. At age 38, he still really hasn't shown many serious signs of decline. Draft with confidence.</p> <p>2007 Stats: IP: 71 W-L: 3-4 ERA: 3.15 WHIP: 1.12 K: 74 SV: 30</p> <p>2008 Potential: IP: 75 W-L: 4-2 ERA: 1.90 WHIP: 0.95 K: 75 SV: 40</p>	

RP Bobby Jenks, Chicago	Age: 27 Size: 6'3" 290
<p>FM: I would love to rank Jenks #1 after his streak last season. Jenks has what it takes to be a top-notch closer and in my mind, he already is. To some people, he's not quite there yet because of his past history of high ERA/WHIP's. Personally, I'd steal Jenks after sometime in rounds 7-9 depending on the closer run once the top 4-5 are gone and then laugh your way to a fantasy championship! 40+/90+K potential on an improved team! Spend about \$15 at the auction.</p> <p>MLBFO: Jenks has what it takes to be one of the best closers in the league. In fact, I think he is already there. The one knock on Jenks going into last years drafts was his</p>	

high ERA. A 2.78 ERA in 2008 quieted those critics. Another closer you can draft with confidence.

2007 Stats: IP: 65 W-L: 3-5 ERA: 2.78 WHIP: 0.89 K: 56 SV: 40

2008 Potential: IP: 65 W-L: 5-5 ERA: 2.75 WHIP: 1.20 K: 60 SV: 40+

RP Takashi Saito, Los Angeles Dodgers | Age: 37 Size: 6'2" 202

MLBFO: Age is going to catch up to him at some point and when it does Jonathan Broxton will be waiting to seize the day. However, we don't anticipate that day coming this year. Saito was elite last year and he'll be strong this year as well.

FM: What no one talks about is the shoulder problems Saito had late last season. Anyone remember that Saito missed a few games and Broxton was a fiend as closer for a few days? This is solely why I will pass on Saito this year or at least draft him and handcuff him with Broxton late. Saito will be a solid closer if his shoulder worries turn out to be nothing, but don't say I didn't warn you. He'll be drafted at normal closer value but make sure you don't pay more than \$15 in a 12 team mixed league auction or you'll get burned.

2007 Stats: IP: 64.1 ERA: 1.40 W: 2 WHIP: .72 K: 78 SV: 39

2008 Potential: IP: 60.0 ERA: 2.70 W: 2 WHIP: 1.00 K: 70 SV: 35



RP Jose Valverde, Houston | Age: 28 Size: 6'4" 254

MLBFO: Valverde is the youngest player in the top two tiers of closers in the NL at age 28. He pitched extremely well last year and a move to Houston really shouldn't have an effect on his value. Valverde should thrive this year and in years to come.

FM: Some magazines will knock Valverde and say he won't be able to keep up the same production. Keep in mind that there isn't much of a size difference between Arizona's stadium and Houston's, so don't let ballparks play a role in your decision process. Houston appears to be a better team and Valverde is 28 so he's not going to decline much. He probably won't be as lucky as he was last season but you should still expect 40 saves assuming the Astros give him ample opportunities.

2007 Stats: IP: 64.1 ERA: 2.66 W: 1 WHIP: 1.12 K: 78 SV: 47

2008 Potential: IP: 70.0 ERA: 3.00 W: 2 WHIP: 1.20 K: 82 SV: 42

RP Billy Wagner, New York Mets	Age: 36 Size: 5'11" 203
<p>MLBFO: Wagner should be good for more than 34 saves next year with this high powered Mets lineup. Just be careful of those late season blunders.</p> <p>FM: Looking at the numbers, it appears that Wagner had a great season, but if you are a Mets fan, which thankfully I am not, there were times you wanted to keep your hands over your eyes. That is called the "Armando Benitez Effect". Wagner should be better this year and the Mets do seem motivated to play to their full potential and in some way, that starts with the guy who needs to close games out! You can probably steal Wagner for under \$15, which is a steal.</p> <p>2007 Stats: IP: 68.1 ERA: 2.63 W: 2 WHIP: 1.13 K: 80 SV: 34</p> <p>2008 Potential: IP: 75.0 ERA: 3.00 W: 3 WHIP: 1.15 K: 80 SV: 35</p>	

RP Francisco Cordero, Cincinnati	Age: 32 Size: 6'2" 235
<p>MLBFO: Signing with Cincinnati certainly didn't help his value. Repeating 44 saves with a team who will struggle to win 80 games is going to be a tough feat. However, the ERA and strikeouts will still be there.</p> <p>FM: Cordero is a guy who can shoot out and have 25 saves by the All-Star break and then stink the rest of the year. He seems like a 1st half guy so draft him if he slips and trade before he starts stinking it up. His K rate is among the best of all the closers but his inconsistency is what knocks him down this list. He has the potential to be as effective as K-Rod or as disastrous as Armando Benitez.</p> <p>2007 Stats: IP: 63.1 ERA: 2.98 W: 0 WHIP: 1.11 K: 86 SV: 44</p> <p>2008 Potential: IP: 70.0 ERA: 3.20 W: 3 WHIP: 1.20 K: 90 SV: 37</p>	

RP Manny Corpas, Colorado	Age: 24 Size: 6'3" 170
<p>MLBFO: Corpas was great the entire year and earned the closer role part way through. At only age 24, it's a reasonable fear that he would struggle under pressure, but he hasn't shown any signs of it as of yet.</p> <p>FM: I believe Corpas is for real. Most people are still skeptical and it shows in mock drafts. Steal Corpas for under \$8 at the auction and watch his save opportunities rise as the Rockies should be a decent team in 2008.</p> <p>2007 Stats: IP: 78.0 ERA: 2.08 W: 4 WHIP: 1.06 K: 58 SV: 19</p> <p>2008 Potential: IP: 70.0 ERA: 2.50 W: 3 WHIP: 1.15 K: 60 SV: 35</p>	

RP Jason Isringhausen, St. Louis	Age: 35 Size: 6'3" 230
<p>MLBFO: Isringhausen had a superb comeback year at age 35, but on a weak Cardinal's team, he just isn't going to have a whole lot of opportunities. He won't get as many strikeouts as anyone ranked ahead of him either.</p> <p>FM: The seemingly weak Cardinal team, his age, and the injury risk will lower Izzy's value, but if you can steal him for under \$10, he's worth the risk. If the Cardinals can turn it around, the added opportunities are icing on the cake.</p> <p>2007 Stats: IP: 65.1 ERA: 2.48 W: 4 WHIP: 1.07 K: 54 SV: 32</p> <p>2008 Potential: IP: 65.0 ERA: 3.30 W: 3 WHIP: 1.30 K: 50 SV: 30</p>	

RP Trevor Hoffman, San Diego	Age: 40 Size: 6'0" 215
<p>MLBFO: His numbers are almost identical with Francisco Cordero except he had half the strikeouts. At age 40, a slight decline seems likely as well. In fact, a closer look at his peripherals and we can see a clear decline in almost every statistic. He struggles to keep the ball down anymore and his ERA could go up as a result.</p> <p>FM: "Experts" say the same thing every year, that Hoffman is due to decline and every year he notches 40+ games. He's got one of the most devastating change ups around and he's never hurt. I don't see why he can't repeat what he did in 2007. Take that blown save in the playoffs and chalk it up in the loss column, but don't expect that game to haunt Hoffman. He's as solid and as durable as they come...and cheap as heck on draft day!</p> <p>2007 Stats: IP: 57.1 ERA: 2.98 W: 4 WHIP: 1.12 K: 44 SV: 42</p> <p>2008 Potential: IP: 60.0 ERA: 3.50 W: 3 WHIP: 1.25 K: 45 SV: 35</p>	

RP Matt Capps, Pittsburgh	Age: 24 Size: 6'2" 245
<p>MLBFO: Capps spent a large part of the year in the setup role leading to a much higher inning total than anyone ahead of him. He should see a reduced work load next year and should maintain the closer role the entire year as Pittsburgh really has nothing to lose.</p> <p>FM: Capps is not overpowering but he is still effective. Capps is only 24 so his upside assuming the Pirates can win a few games could make him a hefty keeper for 2009. Don't be surprised if he saves 40 games as Capps is the first real solid closer type the Pirates have had in a long time.</p> <p>2007 Stats: IP: 79.0 ERA: 2.28 W: 4 WHIP: 1.01 K: 64 SV: 18</p> <p>2008 Potential: IP: 70.0 ERA: 3.00 W: 3 WHIP: 1.10 K: 60 SV: 30</p>	

RP Chad Cordero, Washington	Age: 25 Size: 6'0" 200
<p>MLBFO: Much like the other Cordero, Chad faces the problem of being an elite closer on a bad team. He managed to find 37 despite playing for the Nationals last year, but his ERA suffered because he pitched a large number of his 75 innings in non save situations.</p> <p>FM: Not much I can say here except that you should expect much of the same from Cordero. He has the stuff to be a top-notch closer but his team holds him back. Draft as a low end 2nd or 3rd closer and hope for the best.</p> <p>2007 Stats: IP: 75.0 ERA: 3.36 W: 3 WHIP: 1.39 K: 62 SV: 37</p> <p>2008 Potential: IP: 70.0 ERA: 3.20 W: 3 WHIP: 1.30 K: 65 SV: 35</p>	

RP Huston Street, Oakland	Age: 24 Size: 6'0" 195
<p>FM: Unless Street falls to \$2-\$3 in the auction or I can steal him as a low end second or third closer, I might take the risk. Street has the Harden, Sheets, Prior effect. Guys that can't stay on the field but haven't undergone surgery. I feel like Streets' arm is hanging on by a thread making him a huge risk in my eyes. When healthy, he's a 35+, low ERA/WHIP guy with some K potential.</p> <p>MLBFO: Street can be one of the best closers in the league, but there is a ton of risk. He'll likely make at least one trip to the DL in 2008 and he could be there for a long time. Take a risk as your third closer, but I wouldn't risk it where he's being drafted.</p> <p>2007 Stats: IP: 50 W-L: 5-2 ERA: 2.88 WHIP: 0.94 K: 63 SV: 16</p> <p>2008 Potential: IP: 60 W-L: 4-3 ERA: 2.90 WHIP: 1.00 K: 75 SV: 30</p>	

RP Brad Lidge, Philadelphia	Age: 30 Size: 6'5" 210
<p>MLBFO: Lidge has struggled in the closer role ever since Pujols had that huge blast off of him in the Playoffs a couple years ago. However, perhaps getting out of Houston will help him move on. At least, that's what Philadelphia is hoping.</p> <p>FM: With Philly being a favorite to win the NL East or at least the Wildcard, Lidge could finally have an opportunity to overcome his inconsistency. When he's on, he's unhittable, but when he's off, he's down right terrible. I wouldn't over extend on Lidge but if he falls to you later or on the cheap (\$13 or less), don't hesitate to scoop him up. His value is better as a 2nd closer on your squad. Oh, and he should still be on target to start the season on schedule despite the slight knee injury he had early in camp.</p> <p>2007 Stats: IP: 67.0 ERA: 3.36 W: 5 WHIP: 1.25 K: 88 SV: 19</p> <p>2008 Potential: IP: 70.0 ERA: 3.20 W: 4 WHIP: 1.20 K: 90 SV: 40</p>	

RP Rafael Soriano, Atlanta	Age: 27 Size: 6'1" 220
<p>MLBFO: What really stands out about Soriano is his 0.86 WHIP. However, Soriano finds himself this low on the list because if he begins to struggle, Atlanta has other guys it can go to. Namely: Mike Gonzalez. Additionally, although he stayed off the DL in 2007, it was the first year in a long time. There is still a huge injury risk and Mike Gonzalez could benefit.</p> <p>FM: I'll go the other way here. If Soriano can stay effective, he will have the opportunity to save 40+ games the WHIP and K rate is a great sign...the rest depends on his team. Steal him for a buck or two as a 2nd or 3rd closer.</p> <p>2007 Stats: IP: 72.0 ERA: 3.00 W: 3 WHIP: 0.86 K: 70 SV: 9</p> <p>2008 Potential: IP: 70.0 ERA: 3.20 W: 3 WHIP: 1.00 K: 70 SV: 30</p>	

RP Joakim Soria, Kansas City	Age: 23 Size: 6'3" 185
<p>FM: If you can believe that the Royals can improve a touch, then Soria can be decent. He may not reach the 40 saves plateau, but 35 saves, low ERA/WHIP and high K rate could mean good things for your fantasy team as a second or third closer.</p> <p>MLBFO: Soria was a great steal in the Rule 5 draft and he made a nice waiver wire pickup last season. That being said, he doesn't have the great stuff he needs to keep an ERA up as high as last season. I wouldn't project him this high, but FM insists!</p> <p>2007 Stats: IP: 69 W-L: 2-3 ERA: 2.48 WHIP: 0.94 K: 75 SV: 17</p> <p>2008 Potential: IP: 75 W-L: 3-4 ERA: 2.30 WHIP: 1.10 K: 80 SV: 35</p>	

RP Joe Borowski, Cleveland	Age: 37 Size: 6'2" 225
<p>FM: Borowski is strictly a saves guy and his ERA/WHIP can be a killer. His value lies with his team. Cleveland expects to be top-notch again and the opportunity for 40+ saves there, but the opportunity to blow a few is there too. He could potentially lose his job to Rafael Betancourt.</p> <p>MLBFO: If you're willing to take a hit at ERA/WHIP and are desperate for saves than draft Borowski. As the FM said, all his value lies in that he pitches for Cleveland. If blown saves count in your league, he could be a risk.</p> <p>2007 Stats: IP: 65.7 W-L: 4-5 ERA: 5.07 WHIP: 1.43 K: 58 SV: 45</p> <p>2008 Potential: IP: 70 W-L: 4-6 ERA: 4.50 WHIP: 1.40 K: 55 SV: 40</p>	

RP Todd Jones, Detroit	Age: 40 Size: 6'3" 230
<p>FM: See Joe Borowski! Jones should notch approximately 40 saves as the Tigers will be a top-notch team. As I said with Borowski, ERA/WHIP will be higher than most closers and the lack of K's hurts too. Jones is strictly viewed as a saves guy like Borowski.</p> <p>MLBFO: I was going to say, see Joe Borowski. But, that's exactly what the FM said. So I'll say, I agree with the FM! Will hurt your ERA/WHIP, but help saves. And, Detroit will be even better next year so more saves is certainly possible!</p> <p>2007 Stats: IP: 61.3 W-L: 1-4 ERA: 4.26 WHIP: 1.42 K: 33 SV: 38</p> <p>2008 Potential: IP: 70 W-L: 2-4 ERA: 4.20 WHIP: 1.35 K: 35 SV: 40</p>	

RP Kevin Gregg, Florida	Age: 29 Size: 6'6" 235
<p>MLBFO: After the "he is, he isn't, he is" that was going on with the Florida closer position at the beginning of the year, they settled in on Kevin Gregg and he was solid for the rest of the year. At least this time the job is his to lose. A quick look at his peripherals and we see a closer who could be very successful or not successful at all. If he struggles, he'll lose the job.</p> <p>FM: I think it all depends on the Marlins as a team, and they don't look very promising in 2008, but the K per IP is nice to have as a low end 2nd closer.</p> <p>2007 Stats: IP: 84.0 ERA: 3.54 W: 0 WHIP: 1.23 K: 87 SV: 32</p> <p>2008 Potential: IP: 80.0 ERA: 3.80 W: 2 WHIP: 1.30 K: 80 SV: 35</p>	

RP Carlos Marmol, Chicago Cubs	Age: 25 Size: 6'2" 180
<p>MLBFO: Marmol is the best relief pitcher the Cubs have and with the apparent move of Ryan Dempster to the starting rotation, Marmol becomes the most realistic closer option they have. While he is relatively unproven in the ninth, if he can pitch like he does in other innings, he could be a great sleeper. The reason his save projection is lower is because; knowing the Cubs, Kerry Wood is likely to steal some saves.</p> <p>FM: If the Cubs were smart, Marmol would be the closer. That K:IP rate is ridiculous. Worst Case Scenario: Draft Marmol around the 16th round in 5x5 Roto leagues as he can help lower ERA/WHIP while nabbing some K's and a few saves if he's not the full-time closer. A week of Marmol is better than one start a week from say Jeff Suppan for example.</p> <p>2007 Stats: IP: 69.1 ERA: 1.43 W: 5 WHIP: 1.10 K: 96 SV: 1</p> <p>2008 Potential: IP: 70.0 ERA: 3.30 W: 3 WHIP: 1.25 K: 85 SV: 30</p>	

RP Brian Wilson, San Francisco	Age: 25 Size: 6'1" 205
<p>MLBFO: I had Wilson listed as a "super sleeper" last year and sure enough he came up and earned the closer role. He managed a WHIP under 1.00 in limited time and should serve up another solid campaign. He is dropped this low only because of his limited major league experience.</p> <p>FM: I agree. Draft for a buck or two or after the 15th round in snake drafts and hope for 30+ saves as the Giants won't give him many opportunities.</p> <p>2007 Stats: IP: 23.2 ERA: 2.28 W: 1 WHIP: .97 K: 18 SV: 6</p> <p>2008 Potential: IP: 70.0 ERA: 3.50 W: 1 WHIP: 1.30 K: 60 SV: 25</p>	

RP Jeremy Accardo, Toronto	Age: 26 Size: 6'2" 190
<p>FM: Accardo has good stuff, he's still young and he filled in fantastically for B.J. Ryan after he went down. Draft Accardo expecting a decent amount of saves to start the season if B.J. Ryan requires more time. Accardo is an easy \$1 on draft day.</p> <p>MLBFO: Accardo is a good last round pick if you need some help for saves. Even once BJ Ryan is healthy, they may stick with Accardo for a while Ryan builds up strength. Therefore, Accardo could be a good saves source for the entire first half and possibly longer!</p> <p>2007 Stats: IP: 63.4 W-L: 4-4 ERA: 2.14 WHIP: 1.11 K: 57 SV: 30</p> <p>2008 Potential: IP: 75 W-L: 5-4 ERA: 1.90 WHIP: 1.10 K: 75 SV: 30</p>	

RP C.J. Wilson, Texas	Age: 27 Size: 6'1" 215
<p>FM: Wilson is the clear cut favorite to keep the closer job in '08. Look for an improvement across the board. He saved 12 of 13 chances in the second half while nabbing 63K in 68IP which shows a potential for 35SV/80K over a full season of save opportunities. The only cons are the acquisition of Eddie Guardado and the effectiveness of Joaquin Benoit who are both strong options if Wilson falters.</p> <p>MLBFO: Wilson looked great last year, but doesn't have much late inning experience. If he falters, there are plenty of options in Texas to take his job. Draft, but there is a decent amount of risk.</p> <p>2007 Stats: IP: 68.1 W-L: 2-1 ERA: 3.03 WHIP: 1.21 K: 63 SV: 12</p> <p>2008 Potential: IP: 85 W-L: 4-3 ERA: 2.90 WHIP: 1.20 K: 75 SV: 30</p>	

RP Brandon Lyon, Arizona	Age: 28 Size: 6'1" 175
<p>MLBFO: Lyon was announced as the favorite to win the closer job in Arizona with the Valverde trade.</p> <p>FM: Although he's been named the closer, its not written in stone. Draft as a low end 2nd closer or for \$5 or less and hope for the best. The fact that he is on a potentially winning team increases his value a bit.</p> <p>2007 Stats: IP: 74.0 ERA: 2.68 W: 6 WHIP: 1.24 K: 40 SV: 2</p> <p>2008 Potential: IP: 75.0 ERA: 2.40 W: 4 WHIP: 1.20 K: 50 SV: 30</p>	

RP Eric Gagne, Milwaukee	Age: 32 Size: 6'0" 240
<p>MLBFO: His collapse in Boston and injury concern will keep his draft value low. He certainly isn't the same pitcher he used to be, but he still has exceptional peripherals. A late round minimum investment pick, could land you a huge reward.</p> <p>FM: As you guys know, MLB is cracking down on steroids and since Gagne won't be able to take them, he'll probably have trouble overpowering hitters and staying healthy. I'm passing no matter what happens but he will be cheap and you could possibly catch lightning in a bottle.</p> <p>2007 Stats: IP: 52.0 ERA: 3.81 W: 4 WHIP: 1.35 K: 51 SV: 16</p> <p>2008 Potential: IP: 60.0 ERA: 3.70 W: 3 WHIP: 1.28 K: 60 SV: 35</p>	

RP Troy Percival, Tampa Bay	Age: 39 Size: 6'3" 235
<p>FM: A great spring could make Percival the full-time closer Tampa Bay has been searching for. Percival was money down the stretch last season after his comeback and looks to maybe resurrect his career in Tampa Bay. Be careful of any Tampa reliever as none have ever really been dominant while also keeping the Yankees and Red Sox in the back of your mind. Worth a buck in deep leagues that utilize middle relievers.</p> <p>MLBFO: Tough pitching in the AL East on a bad team. However, Percival has a decent amount of potential. In my opinion, there is more risk than potential here so I wouldn't want to count on him for next year.</p> <p>2007 Stats: IP: 40 W-L: 3-0 ERA: 1.80 WHIP: 0.85 K: 36 SV: 0</p> <p>2008 Potential: IP: 70 W-L: 4-2 ERA: 1.90 WHIP: 1.00 K: 70 SV: 30</p>	

RP Jonathan Broxton, Los Angeles Dodgers	Age: 23 Size: 6'4" 290
<p>MLBFO: Broxton is sitting, waiting, wishing for the Dodgers closer role. He is the most talented set up man in the NL at this point, and one of the most closer-destined 23 year olds in a long time. If Saito gets injured or falters, Broxton immediately becomes a top closer.</p> <p>FM: Broxton should be drafted regardless of whether or not he is the closer. He has Papalbon/Joba Chamberlain type of stuff and should either be stashed on your bench or utilized in 5x5 roto leagues as an ERA/WHIP lowering hound. Draft for a buck and sit on this guy until Saito hurts his shoulder again and then never let go.</p> <p>2007 Stats: IP: 82.0 ERA: 2.85 W: 4 WHIP: 1.15 K: 99 SV: 2</p> <p>2008 Potential: IP: 80.0 ERA: 2.70 W: 4 WHIP: 1.10 K: 100 SV: 10</p>	

SP B.J. Ryan, Toronto	Age: 32 Size: 6'6" 260
<p>FM: Ryan missed most of last year with reconstructive elbow surgery. If all has gone well and Ryan stays on course with his rehabilitation, its possible he could be ready just after opening day. I believe he won't be ready to return until early May. He went down the same time Chris Carpenter did. Could be cheap in keeper leagues for 2009 if you have room to stash.</p> <p>MLBFO: If you read my comments on Accardo, you'll see how little value I think Ryan has for 2008. However, if you're drafting Accardo in a deep league, it might be worth it to handcuff him with Ryan.</p> <p>2007 Stats: IP: 4 W-L: 0-2 ERA: 12.46 WHIP: 2.54 K: 3 SV: 3</p> <p>2008 Potential: IP: 35 W-L: 2-2 ERA: 2.20 WHIP: 1.15 K: 40 SV: 12</p>	

SP George Sherrill, Baltimore	Age: 31 Size: 6'0" 230
<p>FM: Dave Trembley has said Sherrill is the closer. He's not in the best shape but the guy sure is intense. Apparently he has his own theme music "Back in Black" so that right there must mean he's solid!</p> <p>MLBFO: Baltimore hasn't been able to find a consistent closer in a while but hopefully Sherrill will change that. Although unproven, looking at some of these other closers, you could do a lot worse..</p> <p>2007 Stats: IP: 45.7 W: 2 ERA: 2.37 WHIP: 0.99 K: 56 SV: 3</p> <p>2008 Potential: IP: 75 W: 5 ERA: 2.10 WHIP: 1.05 K: 70 SV: 30</p>	