



2008 SHORTSTOP SS Rankings

Mixed League Player Rankings & Analysis

Written by

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SS Hanley Ramirez, Florida	Age: 23 Size: 6'3" 195
<p>MLBFO: Hanley vs. Jose that is the question you'll be hearing all off-season. We chose Hanley because he simply offers more of everything except for stolen bases. His power is still developing and the Marlins will eventually make him their permanent #3 batter. At 23, his power could stretch all the way to 35 homeruns. RBIs and Runs take a hit with no Miguel Cabrera.</p> <p>FM: In some leagues Hanley Ramirez is taken with the first pick, and why the heck not? This guy offers everything! The high average and the 50+SB potential is a nice trade off if you decide to pass up A-Rod. Plus, if Hanley moves to the #3 spot, who cares if Cabrera is here or not...for protection yes, but now Hanley has a shot at 30HR/100+RBI!!! Hanley is for real but remember he played through a lingering shoulder problem late in the season. I'm still picking Hanley in my top 3.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 639 AVG: .332 HR: 29 RBI: 81 R: 125 SB: 51</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 650 AVG: .320 HR: 32 RBI: 90 R: 105 SB: 50</p>	



SS Jose Reyes, New York Mets	Age: 24 Size: 6'0" 160
<p>MLBFO: You could make a case for Reyes at number one and we understand where those people are coming from. Reyes isn't going to smack 30 homeruns, but he should be up around 20 next year. Some thought Reyes had 30 homeruns power and that simply isn't the case, but 80 stolen bases are downright scary.</p> <p>FM: Yeah I'm not so sure Reyes will hit 20 HR, he's just too inconsistent and impatient at the plate to be the .300+/20HR hitter. However, in 2007 Reyes increase his walk total from 53 in 2006 and 27 in 2005 so we can make a case that Reyes is learning and could indicate yet another increase this season. After that terrible second half in '07, I will almost guarantee Reyes increases his walk total again and concentrates on better at bats overall...What Reyes needed at the end of the season was a nice kick in the rear, and I think that second half slide did just the trick.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 681 AVG: .280 HR: 12 RBI: 57 R: 119 SB: 78</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 650 AVG: .290 HR: 15 RBI: 65 R: 120 SB: 80</p>	

SS Jimmy Rollins, Philadelphia	Age: 29 Size: 5'8" 168
<p>MLBFO: In a normal SS crop, Rollins would be number one, but Ramirez and Reyes are head and shoulders above everyone else. Rollins is the clear cut third best and a repeat season is not completely out of the question.</p> <p>FM: Rollins is easily a late first round pick and is "the" slightly cheaper option of the top 3. If you get lucky enough to lock down the 11th or 12th pick in a 12 team league, you'll have the opportunity to grab Rollins and then a big power bat in Fielder/Howard/Ortiz possibly with your wrap around pick making a fantastic start to your draft.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 716 AVG: .296 HR: 30 RBI: 94 R: 139 SB: 41</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 690 AVG: .290 HR: 30 RBI: 90 R: 110 SB: 40</p>	



SS Troy Tulowitzki, Colorado	Age: 23 Size: 6'3" 205
<p>MLBFO: 24 homeruns for a rookie SS is practically unheard of. At age 23, he could hit 30 homeruns next season. While he doesn't offer the speed any of the first three do, no one is going to dispute his #4 ranking.</p> <p>FM: Tulo has to be ranked 4th here because of his potential for .300/25+/100+RBI/100+R....plain and simple. Tulowitzki makes for a great late 2nd or 3rd round option in normal mixed leagues.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 609 AVG: .291 HR: 24 RBI: 99 R: 104 SB: 7</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 580 AVG: .290 HR: 25 RBI: 95 R: 95 SB: 5</p>	

SS Derek Jeter, New York	Age: 33 Size: 6'3" 195
<p>FM: Who doesn't love Mr. Consistency? I am the world's #1 Derek Jeter fan, but I usually try to stay away from Jeter before the 3rd round. He's a quality player, tops in AVG, H, Runs, OBP every year in H2H leagues but in normal 5x5 Roto leagues, his lack of HR & RBI can hurt you when he's chosen in the first two rounds. Pick him up after the 3rd or 4th and you have a great fantasy SS. Draft him in the 1st or 2nd, and your team will struggle in the power department all season. Jeter is a 12-17 HR guy and if he hits 20+, that's just icing on the cake! Put it this way. You don't draft Jeter for upside, you draft Jeter for durability & dependability, that a lone is worth a 3rd round pick!</p> <p>MLBFO: Don't get stuck drafting Jeter too high. He doesn't have the upside that some of the guys below him have, but what he brings to the table is consistency. Jeter can do it all. FM might be a little biased as a Yankee fan, but Jeter certainly deserved consideration for the #5 spot, so I don't have too much trouble putting him here.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 639 AVG: .322 HR: 12 RBI: 73 R: 102 SB: 15</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 640 AVG: .320 HR: 15 RBI: 85 R: 115 SB: 15</p>	

SS/1B Carlos Guillen, Detroit	Age: 32 Size: 6'1" 215
<p>FM: Guillen played 36 games at 1B and is penciled in as the starting 1B in 2008. The pro here is that not many first basemen have SS eligibility which makes Guillen special. The con here is that if you take Guillen too early in the draft, you might be missing out on some top power numbers. Yes, his speed is valuable at the corner position but it will come at a price! Guillen has been on the disabled list five times since 1999.</p> <p>MLBFO: Guillen won't be being drafted as a 1B in any leagues this year. That being said, if your first baseman goes down with injury and you have an extra SS, Guillen's multiple-position eligibility really comes in handy. Look for him to improve his offensive numbers because he's playing at a less stressful infield position.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 564 AVG: .296 HR: 21 RBI: 102 R: 86 SB: 13</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 575 AVG: .300 HR: 25 RBI: 100 R: 90 SB: 15</p>	

SS Miguel Tejada, Baltimore	Age: 31 Size: 5'9" 215
<p>FM: The 40 HR / 150 RBI days are long gone but Tejada will offer a sweet .320+ average, at least 20+ HR with 100+ RBI potential. He also turns 32 in May but I don't see his numbers declining too much and should be picked somewhere in the 4th-5th rounds for the best value. Earlier than that might be overpayment! Then again, Tejada hit well overall despite missing almost the entire month of July with a fractured wrist.</p> <p>MLBFO: Tejada is likely to be traded and may find himself on the Mitchell Report. Those two x factors could really factor into his 2008 production. As it stands now; however, he is set to again provide great value from the SS position.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 514 AVG: .296 HR: 18 RBI: 81 R: 72 SB: 2</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 650 AVG: .320 HR: 25 RBI: 100 R: 100 SB: 6</p>	

SS Michael Young, Texas	Age: 31 Size: 6'1" 200
<p>FM: Got off to a slow start (batting .192 at the beginning of May) which forced many managers to trade Young, only to watch him tear up the second half the way Robbie Cano did. It was the ultimate punch in the face because we all thought Young was Mr. Consistent. My guess is that he returns to his consistent ways from the start in 2008.</p> <p>MLBFO: Young had a down year in 2007 and still hit well over .300. He can bat almost anywhere in the lineup for Texas, which means it's hard to predict his RBI and Run numbers. That being said, he should bring in some great consistent numbers in 2008.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 639 AVG: .315 HR: 9 RBI: 94 R: 80 SB: 13</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 680 AVG: .315 HR: 20 RBI: 100 R: 100 SB: 10</p>	

SS Edgar Renteria, Detroit	Age: 32 Size: 6'1" 200
<p>MLBFO: Renteria's numbers look good, but when you take into account he could get an additional 100 at bats next year, the numbers look really good. 20/20 is a stretch, but 15/15 is a virtual lock.</p> <p>FM: It's the attack of the 32 year old SS's but Renteria, now batting in that insane Detroit lineup could be in line for a nice RBI increase upwards of 80+ with 90+ potential depending where he bats. Don't over pay because of the Detroit lineup hype but if you pick Renteria sometime late 4th- 6th, you'll get a quality value.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 494 AVG: .332 HR: 12 RBI: 80 R: 87 SB: 11</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 520 AVG: .300 HR: 13 RBI: 70 R: 100 SB: 15</p>	

SS Rafael Furcal, Los Angeles Dodgers	Age: 30 Size: 5'9" 195
<p>MLBFO: Furcal was plagued by injury, even though it's not evident in his almost complete season of at bats. His speed was hampered and his power took a hit as well. Expect Furcal to bounce back to some degree next year.</p> <p>FM: 2007 was a bummer for Furcal and for fantasy owners but you'd be a moron not to expect a rebound especially with a revamped team and a new winning coaching staff. Expect Furcal to be the demon of old on the base paths and with Andruw Jones, Jeff Kent, and Matt Kemp hitting behind him, Furcal should get back to the 100R/35+SB plateau. Plus, this is the year you can grab him on the cheap!</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 581 AVG: .270 HR: 6 RBI: 47 R: 87 SB: 25</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 615 AVG: .280 HR: 15 RBI: 55 R: 100 SB: 30</p>	

SS J.J. Hardy, Milwaukee	Age: 25 Size: 6'2" 190
<p>MLBFO: Everyone knew Hardy had talent and at age 25, he proved it. I would have no problem taking him ahead of Renteria in your draft. He could hit 30 homeruns in '08.</p> <p>FM: Hardy definitely has the talent and at one point early last season, his production was right up there with A-Rod! But, also keep in mind that 18 of those 26 HR came in the first half with 0 HR in the month of July and 51 of those 80 RBI came in the first half as well. I'm not saying Hardy won't have a good season, but this second half does scare me a bit. If that average is any indicator, you can get a Khalil Greene for half the price to do the same thing. I would think Hardy comes back to earth a bit.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 592 AVG: .277 HR: 26 RBI: 80 R: 89 SB: 2</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 600 AVG: .270 HR: 25 RBI: 70 R: 100 SB: 0</p>	

SS Orlando Cabrera, Chicago AL	Age: 33 Size: 5'9" 185
<p>FM: Cabrera is more a .280-.290 hitter than a .330 hitter which he sported most of the season until he collapsed in the second half. He offers solid numbers all around with a 20SB guarantee.....the .300AVG is icing on the cake.</p> <p>MLBFO: Cabrera looks like a great pick up for the Chicago White Sox. He likely won't repeat his .300 batting average, but numbers similar to his 2006 seem in line. At age 33, you could see some regression, but I'd guess a new lineup keeps him energized for at least one more year.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 638 AVG: .301 HR: 8 RBI: 86 R: 101 SB: 20</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 630 AVG: .285 HR: 10 RBI: 75 R: 100 SB: 20</p>	

SS Julio Lugo, Boston	Age: 32 Size: 6'1" 175
<p>FM: Not sure what happened to this guy in 2007 but his offensive reputation took a huge hit as he stunk at the plate. However, once he got on base, that's a different story. 30+ SB potential again and if he can work out the kinks at the plate, should be a decent start this year. I can't see Lugo hitting as badly as he did in 2007. He did have 73RBI though.</p> <p>MLBFO: Either, something just didn't click with Lugo in Boston, he was playing injured, or he just isn't the player many thought he was. I'm opting for the latter. He's only hit over .275 twice in his career. I wouldn't expect much out of Lugo for next year.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 570 AVG: .237 HR: 8 RBI: 73 R: 71 SB: 33</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 590 AVG: .270 HR: 10 RBI: 70 R: 80 SB: 30</p>	

SS Jhonny Peralta, Cleveland	Age: 25 Size: 6'1" 195
<p>FM: Peralta has great size for a SS and some have indicated he'd be better suited as a 3B, but that's just good news for fantasy managers who pick Peralta as a SS. The knock on Peralta is his inconsistency but he does possess 30+ HR potential. His quality at bats in the post season make Peralta a nice value pick if you land him after the 10th round and for under \$10. Also, he's only 26 in May, so there is still room for upside and a break out!</p> <p>MLBFO: Peralta surprised many owners with a huge season last year. He had eye surgery prior to 2007 so that may have had something to do with it. The kid has 30 homerun potential, which at SS vaults him up to the upper echelons.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 574 AVG: .270 HR: 21 RBI: 72 R: 87 SB: 4</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 590 AVG: .280 HR: 25 RBI: 80 R: 80 SB: 3</p>	

SS Stephen Drew, Arizona	Age: 24 Size: 6'1" 185
<p>MLBFO: Things didn't come together for Drew last season. He's not going to be a career .238 hitter, so that should stand to rise. He's still only 24 and has a ton of upside.</p> <p>FM: Drew has turned into one of the biggest sleeper picks of 2008, just not sure if anyone will recognize it other than us. He was consistently terrible at the plate all season in '07, started to come on a bit late in August/September (though not much), but was stellar in the post season (average wise). Drew was a solid hitter in the minors which indicates that he would be an above average offensive SS but his below .240 '07 season average would indicate other wise....that's what makes Drew a great sleeper pick. People will look at the low average and pass in the later rounds ripe for the pickings and ready for possibly a break out year! Don't jump too early though incase we're wrong. Should be available sometime after the 13th round in 12 team mixed leagues and easily attainable</p>	

for under \$5 in normal auction leagues, unless every fantasy mag deems him a sleeper!
2007 Stats: AB: 543 AVG: .238 HR: 12 RBI: 60 R: 60 SB: 9
2008 Potential: AB: 600 AVG: .275 HR: 15 RBI: 75 R: 80 SB: 15

SS Khalil Greene, San Diego

Age: 28 Size: 5'11" 195

MLBFO: Greene avoids all the hype due to a low average, but he did have almost 30 homeruns last year and he's only 28. While the average will hurt you, the homeruns still provide nice positive value for a guy you should be able to get after round 10.

FM: I agree. Greene is someone who can be had late sometime around the 14th-15th rounds if you decided to wait on a SS or MI. The power potential is unmatched at SS but this late in the draft, 30HR potential at a weak position far outweighs the low average.

2007 Stats: AB: 611 AVG: .254 HR: 27 RBI: 97 R: 89 SB: 4

2008 Potential: AB: 600 AVG: .250 HR: 25 RBI: 90 R: 80 SB: 5

SS/2B Ryan Theriot, Chicago Cubs

Age: 27 Size: 5'11" 175

MLBFO: The Cubs seem intent on bringing in every middle infielder available, so Theriot might have a hard time finding playing time. His 30 stolen bases certainly look nice, but his other numbers don't do anything for anyone.

FM: Looks like the SS job is Theriot's to lose but the Cubs could decide to give Ronny Cedeno another shot after a great AAA season.

2007 Stats: AB: 537 AVG: .266 HR: 3 RBI: 45 R: 80 SB: 28

2008 Potential: AB: 500 AVG: .280 HR: 3 RBI: 50 R: 90 SB: 30

SS Tony F. Pena, Kansas City

Age: 27 Size: 6'2" 180

FM: Pena was somewhat consistent all season long. His average was a bit better than expected with 2007 as his first full season. With all of these young kids leading the Royals, its not out of the question that Pena can increase his production slightly in all categories making him a flier pick late in mixed leagues or a decent AL Only option. Could have some sleeper potential.

MLBFO: Pena has limited mixed league value, but could be a solid pick in AL only leagues. Look for a slight increase in some of his numbers, but overall a similar campaign to 2007.

2007 Stats: AB: 509 AVG: .267 HR: 2 RBI: 47 R: 58 SB: 5

2008 Potential: AB: 500 AVG: .275 HR: 8 RBI: 60 R: 60 SB: 10

SS Yuniesky Betancourt, Seattle

Age: 26 Size: 5'10" 190

FM: Offers "serviceability" and durability while providing a .285 - .300 average. Only had 15 BB in 536 AB. Definitely not an OBP guy!

MLBFO: Serviceability is a good word to describe Betancourt. You won't get a whole lot from him, as is the case with the majority of the SS class this year, especially in the AL. If you're in an AL only league, make sure to grab a SS early so you're not stuck with Betancourt late. No power.

2007 Stats: AB: 536 AVG: .289 HR: 9 RBI: 67 R: 72 SB: 5

2008 Potential: AB: 550 AVG: .285 HR: 10 RBI: 70 R: 70 SB: 10

SS Jason Bartlett, Tampa Bay	Age: 28 Size: 6'0" 185
<p>FM: Bartlett will start the 2008 season as the starting SS. He is a light hitter with 20+ SB potential but also .300+ potential he displayed in the minors. We should see at least a slight increase in overall production this season. Could be a nice sleeper speed wise late in drafts.</p> <p>MLBFO: I agree with the FM. Especially in AL only leagues, Bartlett could have some value in 2008 for no other reason than he stumbled upon a starting gig.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 510 AVG: .265 HR: 5 RBI: 43 R: 75 SB: 23</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 550 AVG: .285 HR: 10 RBI: 55 R: 70 SB: 25</p>	

SS Jack Wilson, Pittsburgh	Age: 30 Size: 6'0" 195
<p>MLBFO: Wilson isn't worth a second glance in Mixed leagues but, as a bench player in NL only leagues he could have a minimal amount of value. The Pirates don't want Wilson, but can't unload his contract when there are cheaper, better options available as free agents or for trade. Wilson may be stuck in Pittsburgh for another year.</p> <p>FM: Wilson suffered a concussion and had hamstringing problems late in the season but a nice second half might mean a decent 2008 in NL Only leagues or as a middle infielder in mixed leagues.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 477 AVG: .296 HR: 12 RBI: 56 R: 67 SB: 2</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 550 AVG: .285 HR: 12 RBI: 65 R: 70 SB: 3</p>	

SS Juan Uribe, Chicago	Age: 28 Size: 6'0" 225
<p>FM: A full season of Uribe could net you 20+ HR but you will have to sacrifice with his .260 or below average. Provides nice pop at a weak position as a MI or bench guy in mixed leagues and a starter in AL Only leagues. He'll come cheap but he's overweight and inconsistent. Watch his updates during the spring. If he's a starter, snap him up late. If not, pass him by and leave him for waiver wire bait.</p> <p>MLBFO: Uribe will struggle for playing time this season, and rightfully so. He'll give you the homeruns, but not much else. Don't count on a full season from him, which makes him a risky guy to rely on even in AL only leagues.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 513 AVG: .234 HR: 20 RBI: 68 R: 55 SB: 1</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 450 AVG: .250 HR: 15 RBI: 55 R: 50 SB: 1</p>	

SS Bobby Crosby, Oakland	Age: 28 Size: 6'3" 215
<p>FM: If he comes out of Spring Training healthy, maybe he'll start to show some of that potential. He's a perennial sleeper in fantasy mags each year, and each year it's a wasted pick. Nothing more than a late round flier or reserve pick if you want to take a chance.</p> <p>MLBFO: Crosby had so much potential, oh so much wasted potential. It's yet to be seen whether or not he'll again be labeled as a sleeper. But let's go on the record right now saying MLBFO and FBE do not promote him as a sleeper pick.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 349 AVG: .226 HR: 8 RBI: 31 R: 40 SB: 10</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 500 AVG: .260 HR: 15 RBI: 55 R: 50 SB: 10</p>	

SS David Eckstein, Toronto	Age: 32 Size: 5'7" 177
<p>MLBFO: Eckstein provides a nice average, but not a whole lot else. Anyone who drafts him is drafting him purely off of the hype that surrounds his name. Leave this one alone.</p> <p>FM: You'll get a decent amount of runs too. Plus, now that he's signed with Toronto, this should keep him in the leadoff spot giving him some value in NL Only leagues.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 434 AVG: .309 HR: 3 RBI: 31 R: 58 SB: 10</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 500 AVG: .290 HR: 3 RBI: 25 R: 65 SB: 10</p>	

SS/3B/2B Nick Punto, Minnesota	Age: 30 Size: 5'9" 185
<p>FM: Punto has 20+ SB potential, but that's about it. He'll most likely hit at the bottom of the order if he plays everyday, which is probably not certain just yet.</p> <p>MLBFO: Punto will play every day, at least in the beginning. As FM said, he has solid SB potential, but not a whole lot else. Look for him in AL only leagues, and extremely late in deep mixed leagues as a bench player.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 472 AVG: .210 HR: 1 RBI: 23 R: 53 SB: 16</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 450 AVG: .250 HR: 1 RBI: 30 R: 50 SB: 15</p>	

SS/3B Marco Scutaro, Toronto	Age: 24 Size: 5'10" 200
<p>FM: Scutaro will start the season as the infield back up, but with the brittle Troy Glaus, Scutaro should see a nice increase in at bats.</p> <p>MLBFO: Scutaro isn't worth drafting except in deep AL only leagues. He could be solid enough to pick up off the waiver wire when a Troy Glaus injury occurs.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 338 AVG: .260 HR: 7 RBI: 41 R: 49 SB: 2</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 400 AVG: .270 HR: 10 RBI: 50 R: 50 SB: 4</p>	

SS Brendan Ryan, St. Louis	Age: 25 Size: 6'2" 195
<p>MLBFO: Ryan should find playing time with the impending departures of both Rolan and Eckstein. He played extremely well in limited time and given a full season of at bats, 15/15 seems realistic.</p> <p>FM: Still young with potential. Ryan makes a nice upside pick late in NL Only leagues.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 180 AVG: .289 HR: 4 RBI: 12 R: 30 SB: 7</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 400 AVG: .280 HR: 7 RBI: 30 R: 65 SB: 25</p>	

SS Mark Loretta, Houston	Age: 36 Size: 6'0" 185
<p>MLBFO: See David Eckstein except he doesn't have the average either. He's 36 and won't get a full season of at bats.</p> <p>FM: Don't waste a pick!</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 460 AVG: .287 HR: 4 RBI: 41 R: 52 SB: 1</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 450 AVG: .285 HR: 5 RBI: 40 R: 50 SB: 3</p>	

SS Omar Vizquel, San Francisco	Age: 40 Size: 5'9" 175
<p>MLBFO: He can still play defense which keeps him on the field, but he's one of those guys that an AL team might consider DHing for and letting the pitcher hit.</p> <p>FM: Vizquel is out with an injury so I'd probably pass him up in any league.</p> <p>2007 Stats: AB: 513 AVG: .246 HR: 4 RBI: 51 R: 54 SB: 14</p> <p>2008 Potential: AB: 515 AVG: .270 HR: 3 RBI: 50 R: 60 SB: 15</p>	

SS Cesar Izturis, St. Louis	Age: 27 Size: 5'9" 189
MLBFO: The dodgers didn't want him, then the Cubs didn't want him and now the Pirates don't want him. Not a great list of referrals, why would you hire him? If he ends up on your fantasy team you're in deep \$@%#.	
FM: Umm, yeah...pass!	
2007 Stats: AB: 314 AVG: .258 HR: 0 RBI: 16 R: 31 SB: 3	
2008 Potential: AB: 450 AVG: .250 HR: 0 RBI: 20 R: 25 SB: 0	

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