

2008 MLB.com Fantasy Preview: Third basemen

Stats listed are 2008 projections; dollar values based on standard 5x5 play, \$260 budget per 23-man team

Player	TM	\$\$	AVG	R	HR	RBI	SB	Notes
Alex Rodriguez	NYY	41	.305	123	45	131	18	Best fantasy player ever at this position.
David Wright	NYM	37	.322	112	32	111	27	Already among the best and still getting better.
Miguel Cabrera	DET	36	.336	106	33	128	4	Elite young masher joining a top-shelf offense
Ryan Braun	MIL	34	.289	111	39	107	19	Budding star, even if he declines after historic debut.
Aramis Ramirez	CHC	29	.303	95	37	119	1	Consistent, reliable slugger still capable of a career year.
Garrett Atkins	COL	25	.311	94	27	109	2	Last year was no fluke, so expect more of the same.
Chipper Jones	ATL	24	.322	90	26	89	4	A force when healthy, but have a backup plan.
Ryan Zimmerman	WAS	24	.290	86	24	108	6	Move from RFK could lead to breakout season.
Adrian Beltre	SEA	22	.277	85	25	92	12	Forget '04; still as consistent as they come.
Chone Figgins	LAA	21	.293	101	4	58	48	Won't hit .330 again but will rack up the steals again.
Alex Gordon	KC	18	.278	81	23	84	15	Possible value pick after underwhelming debut.
Edwin Encarnacion	CIN	16	.292	79	21	84	11	Hot streaks show upside, but needs consistency.
Mike Lowell	BOS	16	.295	76	18	94	2	Perfect match of reliability player, ballpark and club.
Troy Glaus	STL	13	.257	72	29	85	0	Will miss Roger Centre but enjoy playing on grass again.
Evan Longoria	TB	13	.280	80	20	80	2	Must-have will be Rays' 3B.
Hank Blalock	TEX	13	.289	74	22	87	2	A major sleeper if he's truly healthy again.
Scott Rolen	TOR	13	.286	71	16	77	4	Will love Roger Centre, but can he stay healthy?
Eric Chavez	OAK	13	.279	77	23	82	2	Talent is there, but he's a walking medical dictionary.
Kevin Kouzmanoff	SD	13	.292	74	19	83	2	Bat emerged in second half, but Chase Headley looms.
Ty Wigginton	HOU	13	.272	68	23	87	1	Should enjoy his new park and favorable lineup spot.
Melvin Mora	BAL	12	.269	68	17	68	5	Hot first half showed his bat isn't done yet.
Yunel Escobar	ATL	10	.305	90	8	55	10	Primed to excel in everyday role.
Kevin Youkilis	BOS	10	.292	94	15	76	3	No fireworks here, just solid all-around production.
Josh Fields	CWS	9	.258	51	18	57	1	Must beat out Joe Crede or return to Triple-A.
Mark Reynolds	ARI	8	.247	65	17	59	1	Capable of 30 homers and alarming strikeout totals.
Akinori Iwamura	TB	7	.282	88	10	58	14	Won't match his homer totals in Japan but has his uses.
Joe Crede	CWS	7	.257	61	19	72	1	Will have to prove back is sound, hold off Fields.
Aubrey Huff	BAL	7	.274	55	19	63	3	Usually doesn't heat up until second half.
Chad Tracy	ARI	6	.281	61	12	51	1	Must overcome injury and Mark Reynolds to reclaim job.
Casey Blake	CLE	6	.268	71	18	77	5	Steady but unspectacular vet.
Pedro Feliz	PHI	5	.251	78	24	80	0	Power numbers headed northward in Philly.
Jose Bautista	PIT	5	.258	64	17	63	4	Late bloomer with some pop an NL-only sleeper.
Mike Lamb	MIN	5	.283	61	16	64	0	Productive platoon player could steal everyday job.
Mark DeRosa	CHC	5	.284	63	10	57	2	Super-utilityman has likely already peaked.
Chase Headley	SD	4	.280	57	12	60	1	Switch-hitter with pop deserves shot.
Bill Hall	MIL	3	.274	68	18	66	6	No lock to bounce back from '07 struggles.
Nomar Garciaparra	LAD	3	.281	56	11	52	4	Andy LaRoche's injury offers fading vet new life.
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Brandon Inge	DET	3	.249	54	14	51	6	Trade for Miguel Cabrera relegates him to utility role.
Ryan Freel	CIN	2	.259	50	4	20	25	Likely to be forced back into utility role.
Brandon Wood	LAA	1	.247	25	7	25	3	Very young with tons of power.
Rich Aurilia	SF	1	.268	35	8	41	1	Huge home park squashes value.
Maicer Izturis	LAA	1	.300	50	6	46	9	Quality utilityman usually finds way to earn PT.
Morgan Ensberg	NYY	1	.257	36	13	31	0	Journeyman faces uphill battle for PT in New York.
Ian Stewart	COL	1	.271	41	9	42	4	Power-hitting 3B giving 2B a try.
Wilson Betemit	NYY	1	.266	48	16	49	1	Could make impact if injuries create opportunity.
Andy Marte	CLE	1	.258	19	7	21	0	Failed auditions so far but could get another shot.
Nick Punto	MIN	1	.275	40	1	22	15	Has speed but no value when not hitting for AVG.
Alberto Callaspo	KC	1	.277	29	3	24	2	Has keeper-league value as potential starter in '09.
Scott Moore	BAL	1	.250	35	12	45	2	Blocked by vets but could help as utility guy.
Greg Dobbs	PHI	1	.278	37	6	32	2	Value squashed by Pedro Feliz signing.
Jose Castillo	FLA	1	.255	26	6	30	1	Light bat for a MI, never mind 3B.
Jeff Keppinger	CIN	1	.314	42	6	38	3	Good average hitter could see extended PT.
Alfredo Amezaga	FLA	1	.268	30	2	16	9	PT likely to drop with OF prospect Maybin on board.
Robb Quinlan	LAA	1	.271	25	4	23	1	Can hit lefties but won't get many chances.
Aaron Boone	WAS	1	.265	21	5	21	1	Useful bat but will struggle for playing time.
Wes Helms	PHI	1	.258	23	4	21	0	Would benefit from change of scenery.
Tony Abreu	LAD	1	.288	18	1	19	1	Hits for a little AVG but has little power or speed.
Shea Hillenbrand	FA	1	.248	16	4	18	0	Former RBI machine looking for work.
Joel Guzman	TB	1	.215	12	5	14	0	Eternal prospect slated for another season at Triple-A.
Alex Cintron	CHC	1	.259	16	2	18	1	Backup infielder has minimal value.
Dallas McPherson	LAA	1	.216	15	6	15	0	Back injury turns him from prospect to suspect.
Russell Branyan	MIL	1	.219	19	7	23	0	Will hurt your AVG even if he hits a few HR.
Jeff Cirillo	FA	1	.262	14	2	16	0	Utility player and pinch-hitter has no value.
Neil Walker	PIT	1	.260	15	3	14	2	Could be ready for PIT hot corner.
Ramon Vazquez	TEX	1	.231	23	5	20	1	Has a little pop but won't play enough to help.
Scott Spiezio	FA	1	.268	26	4	28	0	Great chin scruff but has no team.
Russ Adams	TOR	1	.244	8	1	8	0	No role with TOR means no fantasy value.
Corey Koskie	MIL	1	.000	0	0	0	0	Concussion may have ended solid career.
Abraham Nunez	PHI	1	.216	11	0	8	0	Can only hurt, not help, your team.
Matt Kata	PIT	1	.234	10	1	10	0	Utilityman without upside or playing time.
Andy Gonzalez	CLE	1	.212	11	1	13	2	Will spend year in Triple-A or on the bench.
Travis Metcalf	TEX	1	.221	8	1	8	0	Missed chance to impress and might not get another.
Brian Buscher	MIN	1	.241	7	0	9	0	Already old for a prospect and has no real upside.
Matt Tuiaosopo	SEA	1	.232	4	1	4	1	Needs more time, blocked by Beltre.