

2008 MLB.com Fantasy Preview: Catchers

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 |
|-----------------------|-----|------|------|----|----|-----|----|---|
| Victor Martinez | CLE | 24 | .300 | 81 | 28 | 100 | 0 | Durable, consistent All-Star in prime of career. |
| Russell Martin | LAD | 24 | .295 | 88 | 18 | 87 | 18 | Catching's lone five-category threat. |
| Joe Mauer | MIN | 21 | .328 | 74 | 15 | 89 | 8 | Has potential to be big difference-maker. |
| Brian McCann | ATL | 18 | .290 | 70 | 22 | 95 | 1 | Expect rebound from "disappointing" season. |
| Jorge Posada | NYY | 17 | .280 | 80 | 17 | 80 | 1 | Don't anticipate repeat of '07 |
| Kenji Johjima | SEA | 14 | .290 | 60 | 15 | 65 | 0 | Likely to continue delivering steady numbers. |
| Mike Napoli | LAA | 10 | .251 | 59 | 22 | 71 | 7 | Could be in for big season. |
| Jason Varitek | BOS | 8 | .259 | 55 | 13 | 65 | 1 | Still good, but age may catch up to him soon. |
| Ivan Rodriguez | DET | 7 | .277 | 60 | 8 | 70 | 2 | Diminishing skills offset by RBI opportunities. |
| Geovany Soto | CHC | 7 | .274 | 53 | 15 | 72 | 0 | Fantasy's top catching prospect. |
| J.R. Towles | HOU | 6 | .277 | 50 | 11 | 58 | 6 | Should emerge as mid-tier backstop in no time. |
| Jarrod Saltalamacchia | TEX | 6 | .264 | 50 | 12 | 53 | 0 | Talented youngster needs everyday AB. |
| Bengie Molina | SF | 5 | .270 | 43 | 15 | 59 | 0 | Gets little help from punchless lineup. |
| A.J. Pierzynski | CWS | 5 | .273 | 55 | 13 | 59 | 0 | Veteran workhorse provides steady numbers. |
| Ramon Hernandez | BAL | 4 | .266 | 60 | 15 | 73 | 0 | Should bounce back with return to health. |
| John Buck | KC | 4 | .257 | 51 | 16 | 64 | 0 | Career likely still on upswing. |
| Gerald Laird | TEX | 3 | .250 | 45 | 10 | 53 | 4 | Defense ensures decent PT. |
| Mike Piazza* | FA | 3 | .258 | 34 | 11 | 41 | 0 | Future HOFer still looking for home. |
| Carlos Ruiz | PHI | 2 | .270 | 50 | 12 | 65 | 3 | Expect improvement in second full season. |
| Chris Iannetta | COL | 2 | .289 | 45 | 13 | 54 | 0 | Sweet-swinging youngster to prove he belongs. |
| Ronny Paulino | PIT | 2 | .281 | 60 | 14 | 60 | 1 | Last year's power jump was no fluke. |
| Dioner Navarro | TB | 2 | .258 | 51 | 13 | 60 | 2 | Intriguing option following strong finish to '07. |
| Josh Bard | SD | 2 | .297 | 59 | 8 | 65 | 0 | Plate skills could lead to .300 AVG. |
| Ryan Doumit | PIT | 2 | .280 | 34 | 10 | 38 | 1 | Has skills to make an impact. |
| Kurt Suzuki | OAK | 1 | .268 | 55 | 12 | 61 | 0 | Chance to realize potential on rebuilding squad. |
| Gregg Zaun | TOR | 1 | .259 | 47 | 11 | 55 | 0 | Still productive, though age is a concern. |
| David Ross | CIN | 1 | .226 | 33 | 18 | 46 | 0 | Low AVG could lead to more bench time. |
| Chris Snyder | ARI | 1 | .264 | 40 | 14 | 52 | 0 | Shares too much PT with backup Miguel Montero. |
| Miguel Montero | ARI | 1 | .257 | 25 | 12 | 37 | 0 | Potential to claim regular AB. |
| Paul Lo Duca | WAS | 1 | .270 | 36 | 7 | 42 | 1 | Aging vet's value drops in weaker lineup. |
| Brian Schneider | NYM | 1 | .254 | 37 | 7 | 60 | 0 | Could pad RBI output in potent lineup. |
| Michael Barrett | SD | 1 | .252 | 19 | 5 | 22 | 0 | Will have tough time bouncing back at PETCO. |
| Johnny Estrada | FA | 1 | .278 | 16 | 5 | 34 | 0 | Can hit but may not earn starting job. |
| Yadier Molina | STL | 1 | .270 | 33 | 7 | 50 | 1 | Should maintain AVG given contact skills. |
| Jason Kendall | MIL | 1 | .270 | 42 | 2 | 45 | 2 | Durable vet could maintain solid AVG. |
| Miguel Olivo | KC | 1 | .255 | 23 | 8 | 24 | 2 | Former starter headed for backup duty. |
| Kelly Shoppach | CLE | 1 | .260 | 25 | 6 | 30 | 0 | Will need trade to fulfill offensive potential. |
| Yorvit Torrealba | COL | 1 | .240 | 16 | 4 | 19 | 1 | Will cede starting job to Iannetta before long. |
| Ramon Castro | NYM | 1 | .245 | 28 | 12 | 34 | 0 | Has plenty of thump for a backup. |
| Jeff Mathis | LAA | 1 | .250 | 25 | 5 | 25 | 0 | Offense has yet to catch up to defense. |
| Mike Rabelo | FLA | 1 | .260 | 22 | 4 | 28 | 0 | Major League resume warrants little attention. |
| Jeff Clement | SEA | 1 | .250 | 23 | 6 | 25 | 0 | Backstop with pop doesn't have place to play. |
| Jason LaRue | STL | 1 | .200 | 15 | 2 | 15 | 0 | Coming off historically bad season. |
| Chris Coste | PHI | 1 | .270 | 15 | 6 | 15 | 0 | Overlooked backstop will hit in backup role. |
| Rod Barajas | TOR | 1 | .243 | 12 | 2 | 10 | 0 | Won't provide much value as backup. |
| Javier Valentin | CIN | 1 | .275 | 20 | 3 | 30 | 0 | Could cut into David Ross' AB. |
| Jesus Flores | WAS | 1 | .250 | 24 | 5 | 30 | 0 | Backup could use more Triple-A seasoning. |
| Mike Redmond | MIN | 1 | .283 | 20 | 0 | 24 | 0 | Mauer insurance. |
| Bryan Anderson | STL | 1 | .253 | 13 | 2 | 12 | 0 | Should challenge Yadier Molina soon. |
| Matt Treanor | FLA | 1 | .260 | 20 | 2 | 26 | 0 | Will share starting job but offers little upside. |
| Taylor Teagarden | TEX | 1 | .244 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 0 | Coming off huge year, needs to stay healthy |
| Brad Ausmus | HOU | 1 | .200 | 10 | 2 | 12 | 2 | Keeping catching spot warm for J.R. Towles. |
| Doug Mirabelli | BOS | 1 | .195 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 0 | Specialty catcher has no value. |
| Toby Hall | CWS | 1 | .264 | 10 | 3 | 12 | 0 | Could bounce back with respectable AVG. |
| Rob Bowen | OAK | 1 | .248 | 17 | 3 | 12 | 0 | Will see AB if Kurt Suzuki struggles. |
| Curtis Thigpen | TOR | 1 | .260 | 10 | 2 | 12 | 2 | Could begin '08 at Triple-A. |
| Jose Molina | NYY | 1 | .260 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 0 | Won't duplicate surprising '07 numbers. |
| Humberto Quintero | HOU | 1 | .230 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 0 | Third-stringer to see sporadic PT. |
| Eric Munson | MIL | 1 | .235 | 10 | 5 | 17 | 0 | Cause helped by ability to hit RHPs. |
| Gary Bennett | LAD | 1 | .235 | 10 | 2 | 15 | 0 | Won't see much PT behind durable Russell Martin. |
| Matt Wieters | BAL | 1 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | '07 first-rounder will move up quickly. |
| Raul Casanova | NYM | 1 | .240 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 0 | Will land third-string job at best. |
| Mike Lieberthal | FA | 1 | .210 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | Vet nearing end of career. |
| Sal Fasano | TOR | 1 | .199 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 0 | Veteran influence provides little fantasy help. |
| Damian Miller | FA | 1 | .150 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | In twilight of career. |

*DH only