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# FANTASY NEWS

## 2009 Fantasy Baseball Downloadable Draft Kit Mixed League Rotisserie Scoring

Early Draft Preparation Guide | [baseball.cbssports.com](http://baseball.cbssports.com)

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SAMPLE



### Third Basemen

1. Alex Rodriguez, NYY.....	\$38
2. David Wright, NYM.....	\$37
3. Evan Longoria, TB.....	\$30
4. Kevin Youkilis, BOS.....	\$25
5. Aramis Ramirez, CHC.....	\$18
6. Chipper Jones, ATL.....	\$18
7. Aubrey Huff, BAL.....	\$18
8. Garrett Atkins, COL.....	\$18
9. Chris Davis, TEX.....	\$11
10. Ryan Zimmerman, WAS.....	\$9
11. Chone Figgins, ANA.....	\$8
12. Mark DeRosa, CLE.....	\$6
13. Jorge Cantu, FLA.....	\$6
14. Mark Reynolds, ARI.....	\$4
15. Edwin Encarnacion, CIN.....	\$3
16. Troy Glaus, STL.....	\$3
17. Mike Lowell, BOS.....	\$3
18. Carlos Guillen, DET.....	\$3
19. Alex Gordon, KC.....	\$3
20. Adrian Beltre, SEA.....	\$1
21. Casey Blake, LAD.....	\$1
22. Ty Wigginton, HOU.....	\$1
23. Melvin Mora, BAL.....	\$1
24. Hank Blalock, TEX.....	\$1
25. Kevin Kouzmanoff, SD.....	\$1
26. Dallas McPherson, FLA.....	\$0
27. Bill Hall, MIL.....	\$0
28. Pedro Feliz, PHI.....	\$0
29. Brandon Inge, DET.....	\$0
30. Scott Rolen, TOR.....	\$0
31. Joe Crede, FA.....	\$0
32. Jose A. Bautista, TOR.....	\$0
33. Eric Chavez, OAK.....	\$0
34. Greg Dobbs, PHI.....	\$0
35. Omar Infante, ATL.....	\$0
36. Mike Lamb, MIL.....	\$0
37. Wes Helms, FLA.....	\$0
38. Eric Bruntlett, PHI.....	\$0
39. Russell Branyan, SEA.....	\$0
40. Jose Castillo, FA.....	\$0
41. Robb Quinlan, ANA.....	\$0
42. Morgan Ensberg, NYY.....	\$0
43. Dayan Viciedo, CHW.....	\$0
44. Donnie Murphy, BAL.....	\$0
45. Geoff Blum, HOU.....	\$0
46. Chris Gomez, FA.....	\$0
47. Brian Buscher, MIN.....	\$0
48. Matt Tolbert, MIN.....	\$0
49. Craig Counsell, FA.....	\$0
50. Ramon Vazquez, PIT.....	\$0
51. Willy Aybar, TB.....	\$0
52. Ian Stewart, COL.....	\$0
53. Josh Fields, CHW.....	\$0
54. Martin Prado, OAK.....	\$0
55. Travis Meicall, TEX.....	\$0
56. Ruben Gotay, ATL.....	\$0
57. Mike Hessman, DET.....	\$0
58. Jack Hannahan, OAK.....	\$0
59. German Duran, TEX.....	\$0
60. Augie Ojeda, ARI.....	\$0
61. Andy Phillips, FA.....	\$0
62. Matt Macri, MIN.....	\$0
63. Wilson Betemit, CHW.....	\$0
64. Andy Marte, CLE.....	\$0
65. Scott Moore, BAL.....	\$0
66. Brandon Wood, ANA.....	\$0
67. Jeff Baisley, OAK.....	\$0
68. Mat Gamel, MIL.....	\$0
69. Conor M. Gillaspie, SF.....	\$0
70. Adam Rosales, CIN.....	\$0
71. Rico Washington, STL.....	\$0
72. Brian Barden, STL.....	\$0

### Outfielders

1. Grady Sizemore, CLE.....	\$36
2. Matt Holliday, OAK.....	\$35
3. Josh Hamilton, TEX.....	\$35
4. Ryan J. Braun, MIL.....	\$34
5. Carlos Beltran, NYM.....	\$28
6. Alfonso Soriano, CHC.....	\$28
7. Manny Ramirez, FA.....	\$27
8. Carlos Quentin, CHW.....	\$27
9. B.J. Upton, TB.....	\$27
10. Ichiro Suzuki, SEA.....	\$27
11. Carl Crawford, TB.....	\$26
12. Alex Rios, TOR.....	\$25
13. Jason Bay, BOS.....	\$25
14. Carlos N. Lee, HOU.....	\$25
15. Vladimir Guerrero, ANA.....	\$24
16. Nick Markakis, BAL.....	\$23
17. Jacoby Ellsbury, BOS.....	\$21
18. Shane Victorino, PHI.....	\$20
19. Curtis Granderson, DET.....	\$19
20. Magglio Ordonez, DET.....	\$19
21. Nate McLouth, PIT.....	\$19
22. Matt Kemp, LAD.....	\$19
23. Bobby Abreu, FA.....	\$18
24. Adam Dunn, FA.....	\$18
25. Ryan Ludwick, STL.....	\$17
26. Vernon Wells, TOR.....	\$17
27. Corey C. Hart, MIL.....	\$17
28. Torii Hunter, ANA.....	\$16
29. Jay Bruce, CIN.....	\$16
30. Raul Ibanez, PHI.....	\$15
31. Johnny Damon, NYY.....	\$15
32. Hunter Pence, HOU.....	\$15
33. Jermaine Dye, CHW.....	\$15
34. Brad Hawpe, COL.....	\$13
35. Chris B. Young, ARI.....	\$13
36. Pat Burrell, TB.....	\$13
37. Willy Taveras, CIN.....	\$12
38. Carlos Gomez, MIN.....	\$12
39. Coco Crisp, KC.....	\$10
40. Juan Pierre, LAD.....	\$9
41. Andre Ethier, LAD.....	\$8
42. Rick Ankiel, STL.....	\$8
43. Xavier Nady, NYY.....	\$7
44. Conor Jackson, ARI.....	\$7
45. Mark DeRosa, CLE.....	\$6
46. Milton Bradley, CHC.....	\$5
47. J.D. Drew, BOS.....	\$5
48. Delmon Young, MIN.....	\$5
49. Hideki Matsui, NYY.....	\$5
50. Eric Byrnes, ARI.....	\$5
51. Jayson Werth, PHI.....	\$3
52. Lastings Milledge, WAS.....	\$3
53. Fred Lewis, SF.....	\$3
54. Denard Span, MIN.....	\$3
55. Nick Swisher, NYY.....	\$1
56. Shin-Soo Choo, CLE.....	\$1
57. Nelson R. Cruz, TEX.....	\$1
58. Ty Wigginton, HOU.....	\$1
59. Mike Cameron, MIL.....	\$1
60. Cameron Maybin, FLA.....	\$1
61. Josh Willingham, WAS.....	\$1
62. Jason Kubel, MIN.....	\$1
63. Jeff Francoeur, ATL.....	\$1
64. Michael Cuddyer, MIN.....	\$1
65. Randy Winn, SF.....	\$1
66. Jose Guillen, KC.....	\$1
67. David DeJesus, KC.....	\$1
68. Brian Giles, SD.....	\$1
69. Aaron Rowand, SF.....	\$1
70. Jeremy Hermida, FLA.....	\$1
71. Luke Scott, BAL.....	\$1
72. Elijah Dukes, WAS.....	\$1

73. Ryan Church, NYM.....	\$1
74. Michael Bourn, HOU.....	\$1
75. Adam Lind, TOR.....	\$1
76. Ken Griffey, FA.....	\$1
77. Cody Ross, FLA.....	\$1
78. Jack Cust, OAK.....	\$1
79. Mark Teahen, KC.....	\$1
80. Matt Joyce, DET.....	\$1
81. Ryan P. Freel, CIN.....	\$0
82. Garret Anderson, FA.....	\$0
83. Emil Brown, FA.....	\$0
84. Melky Cabrera, NYY.....	\$0
85. Franklin Gutierrez, SEA.....	\$0
86. Austin Kearns, WAS.....	\$0
87. Andruw Jones, LAD.....	\$0
88. Marlon Byrd, TEX.....	\$0
89. Reed Johnson, CHC.....	\$0
90. Kosuke Fukudome, CHC.....	\$0
91. Marcus Thames, DET.....	\$0
92. Gary Matthews, ANA.....	\$0
93. Jay Payton, FA.....	\$0
94. Jacque Jones, FLA.....	\$0
95. Carlos Gonzalez, COL.....	\$0
96. Scott Podsednik, FA.....	\$0
97. Matt Diaz, ATL.....	\$0
98. Corey Patterson, FA.....	\$0
99. Ryan Spilborghs, COL.....	\$0
100. Geoff Jenkins, PHI.....	\$0
101. Jim Edmonds, FA.....	\$0
102. Juan L. Rivera, LAD.....	\$0
103. Joey Gathright, CHC.....	\$0
104. Dave Roberts, SF.....	\$0
105. Alfredo Amezaga, FLA.....	\$0
106. Jason Michaels, HOU.....	\$0
107. Willie Harris, WAS.....	\$0
108. Eric Hinske, FA.....	\$0
109. Shannon Stewart, FA.....	\$0
110. Skip Schumaker, STL.....	\$0
111. Jonny Gomes, TB.....	\$0
112. Matt Murton, OAK.....	\$0
113. Ben Francisco, CLE.....	\$0
114. Rajai Davis, OAK.....	\$0
115. Greg Norton, ATL.....	\$0
116. David Murphy, TEX.....	\$0
117. Reggie Willits, ANA.....	\$0
118. Mark Kotsay, FA.....	\$0
119. Willie Bloomquist, FA.....	\$0
120. Gabe Dellucci, CLE.....	\$0
121. David Gross, TB.....	\$0
122. Brad B. Wilkerson, FA.....	\$0
123. Chris Burke, ARI.....	\$0
124. Travis Buck, OAK.....	\$0
125. Jeremy Reed, NYM.....	\$0
126. Dewayne Wise, CHW.....	\$0
127. John Mayberry, PHI.....	\$0
128. Endy Chavez, SEA.....	\$0
129. Greg Golson, TEX.....	\$0
130. Jerry Hairston, CIN.....	\$0
131. Marlon Anderson, NYM.....	\$0
132. Eric Bruntlett, PHI.....	\$0
133. Wily Mo Pena, WAS.....	\$0
134. Adam Jones, BAL.....	\$0
135. Nyjer Morgan, PIT.....	\$0
136. Norris Hopper, CIN.....	\$0
137. Jerry Owens, CHW.....	\$0
138. Ryan Raburn, DET.....	\$0
139. Scott Hairston, SD.....	\$0
140. Jason Tyner, CLE.....	\$0
141. Brett Gardner, NYY.....	\$0
142. Daniel Murphy, NYM.....	\$0
143. Justin Upton, ARI.....	\$0
144. Rob Mackowiak, WAS.....	\$0

145. Jody Gerut, SD.....	\$0
146. Brandon Boggs, TEX.....	\$0
147. Darin Erstad, HOU.....	\$0
148. Cory Sullivan, COL.....	\$0
149. Fernando Tatis, NYM.....	\$0
150. Angel Pagan, NYM.....	\$0
151. Ryan Sweeney, OAK.....	\$0
152. Chase Headley, SD.....	\$0
153. Gregor M. Blanco, ATL.....	\$0
154. Joe Mather, STL.....	\$0
155. Fernando Perez, TB.....	\$0
156. Micah Hoffpauir, CHC.....	\$0
157. Brian Barton, STL.....	\$0
158. Luis Montanez, BAL.....	\$0
159. Josh Anderson, ATL.....	\$0
160. Ben Copeland, OAK.....	\$0
161. Chris Dickerson, CIN.....	\$0
162. Reggie Abercrombie, HOU.....	\$0
163. Justin Christian, NYY.....	\$0
164. Brian N. Anderson, CHW.....	\$0
165. Brady Clark, NYM.....	\$0
166. Travis Snider, TOR.....	\$0
167. Clete Thomas, DET.....	\$0
168. Steve Pearce, PIT.....	\$0
169. Will Venable, SD.....	\$0
170. Jose Cruz, HOU.....	\$0
171. Kendry Morales, ANA.....	\$0
172. Ryan Langerhans, WAS.....	\$0
173. Seth Smith, COL.....	\$0
174. Jason Repko, LAD.....	\$0
175. Nate Schierholtz, SF.....	\$0
176. Daniel Ortmeier, SF.....	\$0
177. Aaron Cunningham, OAK.....	\$0
178. Nick Evans, NYM.....	\$0
179. Tony K. Gwynn, MIL.....	\$0
180. Jeff Salazar, ARI.....	\$0
181. Felix Pie, CHC.....	\$0
182. Chris Denorfia, OAK.....	\$0
183. Brandon Moss, PIT.....	\$0
184. Mike Morse, SEA.....	\$0
185. Brandon Jones, ATL.....	\$0
186. Jason J. Ellison, PHI.....	\$0
187. Nathan Haynes, TB.....	\$0
188. Charlton Jimerson, SEA.....	\$0
189. Delwyn Young, LAD.....	\$0
190. Roger Bernadina, WAS.....	\$0
191. Brian Horwitz, SF.....	\$0
192. Wilkin Castillo, CIN.....	\$0
193. Alex Romero, ARI.....	\$0
194. Jeff Fiorentino, BAL.....	\$0
195. Brent Clevlen, DET.....	\$0
196. Mitch Maier, KC.....	\$0
197. Justin Ruggiano, TB.....	\$0
198. Wladimir Balentien, SEA.....	\$0
199. Drew Macias, SD.....	\$0
200. Terry Tiffie, LAD.....	\$0
201. Justin Huber, SD.....	\$0
202. Jonathan Van Every, BOS.....	\$0
203. T.J. Bohn, PHI.....	\$0
204. Paul McNulty, SD.....	\$0
205. Jai Miller, FLA.....	\$0
206. Buck Coats, TOR.....	\$0
207. Jason Pridie, MIN.....	\$0
208. Clay Timpner, SF.....	\$0
209. Jason Perry, ATL.....	\$0
210. Joe Thurston, BOS.....	\$0
211. Brett Carroll, FLA.....	\$0
212. Dexter Fowler, COL.....	\$0
213. Nick Stavinocha, STL.....	\$0
214. Laynce Nix, MIL.....	\$0

## Player Profiles

### Catchers

#### 1. [Brian McCann](#), ATL

McCann's .333 batting average and 24 home runs in 2006 seemed too good to be true when he slumped to a .772 OPS in 2007, seemingly back in line with a normal career projection for a 24-year-old catcher. But just when Fantasy owners had begun to write him off as another slow-developing catcher with a higher-than-average ceiling, he went 2006 all over again, capturing his second silver slugger in three years and solidifying his place at the top of his position. He also played a career-high 145 games, showing impressive resilience for a guy who has to squat for three hours every day. The workload caught up to him at the end of the year, which explains his five home runs in the second half, but the increased playing time only ups his Fantasy appeal over other catchers who might not play as often. If you need middle-of-the-order production from your catcher, you simply can't do any better than McCann, who only stands to improve with age.

#### 2. [Russell Martin](#), LA

Martin nearly did the unthinkable for a catcher in 2007, coming within a home run of a 20-20 campaign. Perhaps that surprising rise to Fantasy prominence made his slight regression in 2008 a given. Still, he stole 18 bases and walked 90 times, showing speed and discipline usually absent from catcher's skill set. And better yet, the Dodgers seemed particularly motivated to keep his bat in the lineup, giving him occasional starts at third base to rest his knees. Clearly, they recognize his ability as a natural batsman, and even though he probably won't steal bases much longer considering the toll catching takes on his knees, he can only improve from here power-wise at the age of 26. As a middle-of-the-order hitter at a position usually considered Fantasy's weakest, Martin once again deserves an early-round pick on Draft Day.

#### 3. [Geovany Soto](#), CHC

Something happened to Soto down in Triple-A Iowa the year before last. As if sensing the death of elite Fantasy catchers, he broke out with never-before-seen power, hitting 26 home runs with a .652 slugging percentage. His newfound offensive prowess continued into his rookie season in 2008, giving him 23 home runs to capture the NL Rookie of the Year. Rarely does a 25-year-old catcher adapt so quickly to the big leagues -- almost never as a rookie. Clearly, Soto looks like a special player, and even though his suspect plate discipline leaves him vulnerable to extended slumps (he hit .348 in April and August and .255 the other four months of the year), he might have the best power of any catcher in baseball. Don't hesitate to take him among the top four Fantasy catchers. You can even make a case for him as No. 1 at the position.

#### 4. [Joe Mauer](#), MIN

Mauer managed to stay healthy in 2008 after an injury-plagued 2007 season. The results were MVP-worthy, even though he finished fourth in voting. No, he didn't hit a bunch of home runs, and as he approaches his 26th birthday, you have to wonder if he ever will. But he did win his second batting title in three years and finished second in the AL in on-base percentage, walking nearly twice as often as he struck out. As he enters his prime, his power stands to increase in the next couple

years, maybe even to the point he hits 15-20 home runs, but even if he falls short, he still ranks among the elite Fantasy options at his position. He's become such a dynamic hitter that the Twins can't afford to keep him out of their lineup, meaning you can count on him to get more at-bats than most catchers, even if he ends up playing some designated hitter. Clearly, you should draft him among the top three or four players at his position, and he could easily finish ranked No. 1.

#### 5. [Victor Martinez](#), CLE

All was right in the world for Martinez coming into 2008. He had just set career highs with 25 home runs and 114 RBI the year before, and coming off his 29th birthday, he looked ready to run off a string of All-Star appearances during the prime of his career. All that changed, though, at the very outset of the season, when Martinez hit .270 without a home run over the first three months. The Indians eventually revealed he had an elbow injury and sat him down for two months to have surgery. Upon his return in September, he slugged .475, which compares well to his career .462 mark, so the surgery apparently did the trick. Obviously, Martinez comes with an added degree of risk this season, but he remains a top-five catcher considering his potential to bounce back to a .300 batting average and 20 home runs.

#### 6. [Bengie Molina](#), SF

Molina's peripherals didn't look any different last year than they did over the last five or six years of his career, but for whatever reason, he just felt more relevant in Fantasy. Maybe it had to do with his role in San Francisco, where for the first time in his career, he got a chance to hit in the middle of the batting order, accumulating 95 RBI -- tops among all catchers. The Giants had trouble taking him out of their lineup as a result, giving him career highs in at-bats (530) and games played (145). He doesn't have monster power, but he has at least 15 home runs in four straight seasons. And as long as he continues to bat in the middle of the lineup, he'll offer underrated run production for a Fantasy catcher. Draft him just outside the top five catchers, but try waiting until the middle rounds to do so.

#### 7. [Ryan Doumit](#), PIT

The Pirates finally showed some faith in Doumit last year, handing him the everyday catcher job out of spring training, and he responded with a breakout season offensively. It wasn't just the career highs in countable stats, the 15 home runs and the 34 doubles that you'd expect simply from the increased at-bats, but the boost in percentages, the .318 batting average and .858 OPS, that suggests he belongs among the elite Fantasy options at the catcher position. The stability of playing the same position every day enabled him to capitalize on the potential he long demonstrated in the minors, and his strikeout rate of one every 7.8 at-bats suggests his batting average won't slip as much as you might think. He likely has the ceiling of any of the catchers ranked ahead of him, but we list him just outside the top five due to his lack of track record.

#### 8. [Chris Iannetta](#), COL

Iannetta burned Fantasy owners as a rookie in 2007, following Ben Petrick and J.D. Closser as evidence that homegrown Rockies catchers always come overhyped. But Iannetta took the starting job away from journeyman Yorvit Torrealba early in

2008 and never looked back. A quick look at his numbers might not reveal anything world-beating, but an examination of those oftentimes overlooked peripherals shows he ranked second in OPS among all catchers with at least 300 at-bats, behind only Brian McCann. The guy has rare patience for a catcher, and patience usually translates to Fantasy superstardom in Coors Field. Iannetta turns 26 soon after opening day, meaning he only stands to improve from here, especially with more regular at-bats. You can wait until the middle rounds to draft him, but don't be surprised if he ends up having the kind of breakout season that boosts him into Fantasy's elite.

#### 9. [Kelly Shoppach](#), CLE

Shoppach might not seem like a logical choice to start for your Fantasy team. After all, he only performed so well last year because Victor Martinez missed half the season with an elbow injury. But Shoppach showed so much power, hitting 21 home runs in only 352 at-bats, that the Indians can't afford to keep him out of their lineup, especially with Travis Hafner no longer a reliable force in the middle of the lineup. If Shoppach can find semi-regular at-bats, either by bumping Martinez to first base or designated hitter or forcing him to the bench every now and then, he should accumulate enough home runs and RBI to make him a No. 1 Fantasy catcher. Because one thing's for sure: Last season wasn't a fluke. The Red Sox once considered Shoppach a top prospect before shipping him to Cleveland in the Coco Crisp trade. Don't hesitate to spend a middle-to-late round pick on the 28-year-old.

#### 10. [Jorge Posada](#), NYY

Posada's long run as a top Fantasy catcher might have finally reached its limit in 2008, as a shoulder injury had him in and out of the lineup over the first few months, eventually requiring season-ending surgery in July. He says he expects to catch 120-130 games this year, but such a comment from a 37-year-old catcher doesn't hold much water, especially from one coming off a major surgery known to sap sluggers of their power. That said, you obviously don't want to sell Posada short. After all, he had at least 20 home runs and RBI in seven of eight seasons before last year. But he clearly doesn't deserve the same early-to-middle round pick he once did, and if you take him ahead of younger options like Ryan Doumit and Chris Iannetta, you'll likely get burned. He can suffice as your No. 1 catcher in Fantasy if he lasts into the middle-to-late rounds, but monitor his recovery closely this spring.

#### 11. [A.J. Pierzynski](#), CHW

Pierzynski is that kind of player who nobody ever wants to draft but who never ends up on the waiver wire. He doesn't set the world on fire statistically, but he always gets plenty of at-bats and ends up out-producing most of the catchers in the league, usually batting in the lower third of the White Sox's lineup. Beginning his fifth season in Chicago, his home runs have decreased in each of the last three, but he has averaged 15.3 per season during his White Sox tenure and hasn't had less than 450 at-bats since 2002. If you miss out on the top Fantasy catchers in the early and middle rounds, don't forget about Pierzynski late. He won't carry your team, but he'll give you consistent production all season long.





## Ringing in '09 with risk

By Al Melchior  
[Tell Al your opinion!](#)

On Draft Day, no one wants to be the owner who boldly claims a player from the top of their remaining draft list, only to find out that he would have been available several rounds later. I thought of that owner when I saw that the Giants inked Edgar Renteria to a contract that will pay him \$18 million over the next two seasons. For less than the cost of Renteria's \$500,000 option year buyout, they could have stuck with either Emmanuel Burriss or Kevin Frandsen, whose production should be no worse than what Renteria gave the Tigers in 2008. A GM could look foolish rushing out to secure a two-year rental on Renteria when he could have bought a Burriss.

As a result of this signing, the Giants will pay Renteria more than the salaries due to Jose Reyes, Hanley Ramirez or Jimmy Rollins over the next two years. It isn't unusual for major league players to get paid on the basis of past performance rather than their future potential, but GM Brian Sabean is apparently counting on Renteria to elevate himself somewhere near the vicinity of the Big Three. Remembering that Renteria had the second-highest RC/27 among major league shortstops in 2007, those expectations might not seem so crazy after all.

The point isn't that the Renteria signing is doomed to failure; it's that the signing is both fraught with risk and filled with potential reward. If he reverts to something close to his '07 status, Sabean looks like a genius. Just as likely, though, Renteria could settle into a late-career trough that renders him a huge waste of payroll.

Fantasy owners face the same sorts of dilemmas when deciding how to (or whether to) allocate draft or auction resources for inconsistent players like Renteria. Some owners will pursue Renteria, discounting his disappointing '08 stats in favor of weighting his more attractive numbers from previous seasons. Look no further than the 2009 projections here on CBSSports.com: he is ranked 15th among shortstops in the Fantasy Value projections, even though he finished 19th in '08. Nevermind that Renteria could easily slip to the final round or two of a mixed league draft, as he did in the recent CBSSports.com 5x5 mock draft. A risk-taking owner could spot the potential reward and claim him as early as the mid-teen rounds and stand a decent chance of not getting burned.

When an inconsistent player, like the Giants new shortstop, has shown flashes of excellence, how can an owner know when to commit to him on Draft Day? The first step is to get the story on what happened in the aberrant seasons. By investigating the reasons behind the fluctuations in performance, we can get a better handle on whether we can spot the "real Renteria."

Year	Team	Walk Rate	Whiff Rate	Iso Power	BABIP	RC/27	SB
2006	Atlanta	9%	15%	0.144	0.325	5.5	17
2007	Atlanta	9%	16%	0.138	0.375	6.9	11
2008	Detroit	7%	13%	0.111	0.294	3.9	6

In teasing out the reasons for his down year, four factors stand out: a notable drop in power, a continued decline in stolen bases, a decreasing walk rate and his lowest BABIP since 2001. At 34, we can't expect much of a rebound in his power and stolen base numbers, but between the improvement in whiff rate and a BABIP that should rise at least into the .310-.320 range, his batting average should rebound to its career norm of .290. In short, he should rebound, and we can have some confidence that the "real" Renteria in 2009 will be closer to the 2006 version rather than the one we saw 2007. That still represents a substantial upgrade over 2008, so there is little risk involved in taking Renteria ahead of where last year's stats suggest he should be on your draft list.

Armed with an explanation for Renteria's decline, the next step is to identify who his true Fantasy cohorts are. If we based our draft rankings solely on last year's performance, then Renteria's comparables would be low-end shortstops like Yuniesky Betancourt and Jason Bartlett. Having recalibrated our expectations, we know that he has higher quality Fantasy peers than these. But since there is still some risk involved in bumping Renteria up on your draft list, we need to determine how to rank these comparables on a draft list. While we may find several shortstops who are roughly equivalent in terms of their projected performance, they may not be equivalent in the likelihood that they achieve that level of performance.

As the table below shows, not all of the shortstops who rank close to Renteria in terms of Projected Fantasy Value represent an equal level of risk. Renteria's production dropped by more RC/27 than any other regular shortstop in the majors last year, but Yunel Escobar's took a major nosedive as well. Rafael Furcal also represents a risky pick, both because of fluctuating performance levels and health issues. Of this cohort of shortstops, Orlando Cabrera and Ryan Theriot represent the safest picks. Given Renteria's relative lack of upside and consistency, I would rank both Cabrera and Theriot ahead of him, even though Theriot's Fantasy Value is projected to be slightly lower.

As disappointing as Renteria's season was, there were plenty of other players who fell from lofty Fantasy heights in 2008. What follows is an investigation of six other players whose fortunes were among those that fell the farthest and an analysis of where we can expect them to land in 2009. There is also risk in determining where to draft players who had unusually good seasons in '08, but we will save those for next week. And we'll get around to the pitchers over the next few weeks as well.

Player	Value	Change in RC/27
Yunel Escobar, SS, Braves	189	-1.91
Orlando Cabrera, SS, White Sox	190	-0.74
Mike Aviles, SS, Royals	191	N/A
Rafael Furcal, SS, Dodgers	201	5.8
Edgar Renteria, SS, Giants	219	-3.05
Ryan Theriot, SS, Cubs	220	0.83