

2008 MLB.com Fantasy Preview: Relievers

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

Player	TM	\$\$	W	SV	SO	ERA	WHIP	Notes
Jonathan Papelbon	BOS	27	4	40	86	1.53	0.88	Young, gifted and bulletproof.
J.J. Putz	SEA	27	5	41	84	1.72	0.81	Last year's dominance no fluke.
Francisco Rodriguez	LAA	26	4	42	88	2.94	1.28	Lives up to nickname, but command is iffy.
Joe Nathan	MIN	26	5	44	81	1.93	1.00	As reliable as they come.
Mariano Rivera	NYY	24	4	35	69	2.44	1.00	Still an elite option.
Bobby Jenks	CWS	23	6	43	63	2.71	0.76	Has joined upper echelon.
Billy Wagner	NYM	23	3	36	76	2.91	1.21	Age may soon start taking its toll.
Takashi Saito	LAD	23	4	37	74	2.08	0.85	Handcuff with setup man Jonathan Broxton.
Jose Valverde	HOU	23	3	36	70	3.11	1.32	Don't pay for '07 saves total.
Francisco Cordero	CIN	23	3	34	71	3.88	1.22	Hurt by move to smaller ballpark.
Huston Street	OAK	21	5	35	75	2.66	1.06	Could be bargain after injury-plagued '07.
Trevor Hoffman	SD	21	3	35	39	3.07	1.18	Continues to defy Father Time.
Manny Corpas	COL	19	4	34	60	2.13	1.03	Should thrive in first full season as closer.
Jason Iiringhausen	STL	15	4	31	55	3.45	1.35	Expect a decline.
Joakim Soria	KC	15	5	32	72	2.71	1.02	Here to stay after unheralded rookie year.
B.J. Ryan	TOR	14	2	27	64	2.44	1.05	Question mark after TJ surgery.
Kerry Wood	CHC	14	4	27	60	3.15	1.23	Fireballer poised to thrive in closer role.
Matt Capps	PIT	14	5	30	59	2.57	1.01	Save chances limited in PIT.
Chad Cordero	WAS	14	4	31	60	3.81	1.45	Warning signs abound.
Eric Gagne	MIL	13	2	29	55	3.15	1.24	Durability remains major hurdle.
Rafael Soriano	ATL	13	3	31	61	3.13	0.89	High upside available at good price.
Brad Lidge	PHI	13	2	27	95	3.86	1.33	Slated to come off DL April 5.
Kevin Gregg	FLA	13	2	29	72	3.65	1.31	Needs to improve shaky control.
Joe Borowski	CLE	13	2	28	57	4.66	1.45	Often dances with disaster.
Todd Jones	DET	12	1	32	26	4.63	1.39	Warning: Saves come with indigestion.
Joba Chamberlain	NYY	12	12	0	170	3.86	1.17	Golden arm to be eased back into rotation.
Troy Percival	TB	5	2	20	40	3.42	1.39	Can he keep partying like it's 1999?
Brandon Lyon	ARI	5	4	22	37	3.43	1.27	Has yet to hold closer job for entire season.
George Sherrill	BAL	5	3	22	59	2.94	1.00	Won closer job in camp.
C.J. Wilson	TEX	5	3	20	66	3.45	1.36	Looks to have won closer role.
Jeremy Accardo	TOR	5	5	12	55	2.49	1.25	Must-have insurance for B.J. Ryan owners.
Jonathan Broxton	LAD	3	3	9	94	2.54	1.18	Takashi Saito injury away from closing.
Brian Wilson	SF	2	3	17	50	3.82	1.34	Default closer needs to maintain control.
Tony Pena	ARI	2	3	12	60	3.46	1.30	Worth grabbing in case Brandon Lyon falters.
Carlos Marmol	CHC	2	3	7	91	2.67	1.18	Only needs opportunity.
Bob Howry	CHC	1	6	8	68	3.22	1.19	May steal saves if Ryan Dempster starts.
Joaquin Benoit	TEX	1	4	4	83	3.22	1.39	Top setup man could see a few SVO.
Jon Rauch	WAS	1	6	10	78	3.61	1.24	Could be closing by season's end.
Hideki Okajima	BOS	1	5	6	60	2.45	1.05	Top insurance policy for Jonathan Papelbon
Rafael Betancourt	CLE	1	3	7	72	2.45	0.99	Could claim closer job if Joe Borowski falters.
Al Reyes	TB	1	4	8	68	3.88	1.12	Insurance for Troy Percival.
Heath Bell	SD	1	5	5	83	2.85	1.06	Vulture saves await when Trevor Hoffman rests.
Chad Qualls	ARI	1	5	7	69	3.19	1.37	Could receive emergency SVO.
Pat Neshek	MIN	1	5	8	80	2.34	0.83	Sleeper candidate if Joe Nathan gets moved.
Brian Fuentes	COL	1	3	7	70	2.94	1.19	Ninth inning now Manny Corpas' territory.
Jamie Walker	BAL	1	4	8	39	3.52	1.20	Could see SVO given lack of alternatives in BAL.
Derrick Turnbow	MIL	1	5	7	71	4.47	1.55	Risky business even if Eric Gagne gets injured.
Scot Shields	LAA	1	4	4	76	3.39	1.23	Expect rebound.
Brad Hennessey	SF	1	5	8	44	3.71	1.29	Could close again if Brian Wilson struggles.
Chad Bradford	BAL	1	4	8	39	3.49	1.48	Steady vet in chaotic O's 'pen.
Matt Lindstrom	FLA	1	5	5	68	3.31	1.32	Possible future closer.
Aaron Heilman	NYM	1	5	6	66	3.14	1.17	Insurance for Billy Wagner owners.
Tom Gordon	PHI	1	2	7	49	4.28	1.17	An option only if Brad Lidge falters.
Alan Embree	OAK	1	3	7	45	3.81	1.40	Value directly tied to Huston Street's health.
Fernando Rodney	DET	1	6	5	57	3.62	1.23	Awaiting Todd Jones' demise.
Octavio Dotel	CWS	1	2	3	54	3.94	1.34	Revival hinges entirely on destination.
Justin Miller	FLA	1	3	2	73	3.71	1.39	Stuck behind Bobby Jenks in setup role.
Taylor Tankersley	FLA	1	4	4	55	3.43	1.58	Fireballing lefty needs to show consistency.

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Kazuo Fukumori	TEX	1	4	5	51	3.73	1.24	Japan experience could lead to SVO in young 'pen.
Lee Gardner	FLA	1	3	4	57	3.16	1.37	Expect return to earth after amazing second half.
Michael Wuertz	CHC	1	3	1	71	3.22	1.39	Good source of Ks, but don't expect any saves.
Scott Linebrink	CWS	1	4	3	59	4.18	1.47	Could get SVO when Bobby Jenks gets a break.
Juan Cruz	ARI	1	5	0	91	3.45	1.21	Cheap source of Ks for NL-only leaguers.
Peter Moylan	ATL	1	4	5	54	2.53	1.13	Top insurance option for Soriano owners.
Eddie Guardado	TEX	1	1	8	48	3.45	1.46	Dark-horse closer candidate.
Yasuhiko Yabuta	KC	1	3	5	55	4.17	1.31	Could be next in line for SVO if Joakim Soria struggles.
Justin Speier	LAA	1	3	1	52	4.01	1.06	Source of Ks and good ratios in AL-only play.
Manny Delcarmen	BOS	1	4	0	49	2.88	1.02	Expect continued improvement.
Brandon Morrow	SEA	1	3	2	81	3.98	1.43	Could be joining rotation.
Matt Guerrier	MIN	1	3	3	61	2.88	1.11	Steady option coming off strong all-around campaign.
Kevin Correia	SF	1	10	0	112	4.01	1.41	Might land rotation spot after promising audition.
David Weathers	CIN	1	6	5	48	3.98	1.35	Returns to setup role with Francisco Cordero in town.
Justin Duchscherer	OAK	1	4	3	52	3.41	1.15	Expected to try out for starting role.
David Riske	MIL	1	2	3	57	4.04	1.26	One of many Eric Gagne insurance options.
Cla Meredith	SD	1	6	3	58	3.43	1.44	Slick control artist buried in deep 'pen.
Duaner Sanchez	NYM	1	4	3	43	4.13	1.22	Looking to regain '06 form after missing all of '07.
Akinori Otsuka	FA	1	4	5	37	4.09	1.24	Free agent's ability to rebound in question.
Ryan Madson	PHI	1	4	2	53	3.96	1.23	Will battle Tom Gordon for top setup job.
Luis Vizcaino	COL	1	5	3	71	4.46	1.44	Expect slight improvement in home numbers.
Dan Wheeler	TB	1	3	3	70	4.06	1.27	Mild rebound candidate.
Santiago Casilla	OAK	1	2	0	64	3.77	1.13	Don't expect return to early '07 form
Joel Peralta	KC	1	4	3	71	3.75	1.31	In hunt to be Joakim Soria's top setup man.
Joel Zumaya	DET	1	2	4	36	3.66	1.08	Expected to return around midseason.
Rafael Perez	CLE	1	2	0	65	3.01	1.14	Tough left likely to remain highly effective.
Keith Foulke	OAK	1	3	4	34	4.28	1.30	Consider if Huston Street gets dealt.
Jason Frasor	TOR	1	2	0	60	4.19	1.18	Good source of Ks, but better alternatives abound.
Bob McCrory	BAL	1	1	4	27	4.51	1.46	Future closer with ability to get Ks, grounders.
Geoff Geary	HOU	1	3	2	50	4.25	1.45	Middling reliever needs to regain command.
Chris Perez	STL	1	0	2	44	3.78	1.31	Future closer could take over from Izzy next year.
Jim Hoey	BAL	1	2	5	53	4.08	1.32	Cheap relief option could sneak in saves.
J.C. Romero	PHI	1	2	1	54	2.53	1.26	Lefty specialist means little in fantasy.
LaTroy Hawkins	NYY	1	4	0	31	4.15	1.35	Expect rough return to AL East.
Edwar Ramirez	NYM	1	0	0	42	4.55	1.40	Intriguing power reliever.
Matt Wise	NYM	1	2	2	48	3.84	1.39	Could enjoy resurgence in new surroundings.
Mike MacDougal	CWS	1	2	1	56	4.09	1.33	Health woes derailed '07 season.
Saul Rivera	WAS	1	3	4	55	3.74	1.44	Has potential value only if Chad Cordero gets dealt.
Shawn Chacon	HOU	1	6	0	83	4.79	1.49	Inconsistent vet could wind up starting again.
Taylor Buchholz	COL	1	5	0	65	4.36	1.33	Long reliever until rotation spot opens up.
Guillermo Mota	MIL	1	1	0	51	4.99	1.30	Steer clear of fading setup man.
Bill Bray	CIN	1	3	0	38	4.45	1.60	Promising lefty fighting for job.
Mike Gonzalez	ATL	1	0	0	10	2.04	0.83	Will spend most of '08 rehabbing after TJ surgery.
Kyle Farnsworth	NYM	1	2	0	71	4.14	1.34	Fading K rate a concern.
Byung Hyun-Kim	FA	1	5	0	85	4.77	1.53	Suddenly a 29-year-old journeyman.
Bob Wickman	FA	1	2	4	32	4.03	1.61	Proven FA vet could see SVO.
Jorge Julio	CLE	1	0	0	43	5.12	1.57	Former closer will have to battle for bullpen spot.
Ryan Franklin	STL	1	5	0	46	4.38	1.49	Control artist best suited for 4x4 formats.
Salomon Torres	MIL	1	3	1	54	4.45	1.45	Minimal value in crowded 'pen
Armando Benitez	TOR	1	0	2	35	5.52	1.84	Creaky ex-closer trying to hang on.
Chris Ray	BAL	1	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	On long road back from TJ surgery.
Ross Ohlendorf	NYM	1	3	1	47	3.97	1.38	Could develop into high-impact setup man.
Casey Weathers	COL	1	1	0	25	4.61	1.28	'07 draftee on fast track with closer potential.
Daniel Moskos	PIT	1	1	0	16	4.72	1.65	Former college reliever should move fast.
Evan Meek	PIT	1	1	1	33	4.91	1.89	Hard-throwing Rule 5 pick will get Ks.
Casey Janssen	TOR	--	--	--	--	--	--	Out for season with torn labrum.