

MLB - 2010 Fantasy Baseball 2/2/10 Expert Mock Draft Analysis (Nord)

Written by Todd Nord

Monday, 08 February 2010 11:20 - Last Updated Monday, 08 February 2010 12:37

On Tuesday, February 2, 2010, RotoCommunity.com participated in a fantasy baseball mock draft (on Mock Draft Central) with the other industry experts listed below. Player position eligibility was provided by Mock Draft Central. We assumed standard 5x5 category roto scoring with 23 starters and no reserves (for the purposes of the mock). Here's how the draft went down round-by-round, with analysis following each round.

You can [go here](#) to read about Buck Davidson's analysis of the same draft. This was my first mock of the season.

First off before I do any draft I look over each position to see if any are deep or weak for draft options. Here is what I found:

- CI - After the elite 1B and 3B go, it gets thin fast, so I'm going to look to fill two of those spots early. The bottom end is full of injury risks and guys who won't help you in more than two categories, so I want all three spots filled by the middle of the draft.
- MI - Most years MI is thin, but this year it looks deep for both 2B and SS. I still won't pass up the elite players, but I know I can fill my MI slots with speed later in the draft.
- OF - Outfield looks top-heavy, but it looks like it will drop off mid-draft. I'll make sure to get 3-4 spots filled before the second half of the draft.
- C - The catcher position looks to be thin this year. A total of 24 catchers have to be drafted, and I don't like any past my Top 15. Also, a lot of the high-end catchers have had good *and* bad seasons within the last two years. The list of reliable catchers is very thin. I'm moving those guys up a tick on my cheat sheet.
- SP - Pitching is very deep this year! I'm not going to stress picking pitching early but focus on it in the middle of the draft with an ace or two there.
- CL - Closers have been so up and down, it's the biggest gamble of the draft every year it seems. In this set-up, I want to walk away with two closers, but a league can be won by drafting one and working the waiver wire to pick up saves in-season. I like to draft one elite closer and then draft a sleeper later or not draft a second closer at all.

I had the 8th pick... let's see how the draft unfolded!

ROUND 1

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Round	Team	Player	Pos	Team
R1 P1	Soup 2 Nuts	Pujols, Albert	1B	STL
R1 P2	Ivar Anderson-Fantasy	Ramirez, Hanley	SS	FLA
R1 P3	KFFL	Rodriguez, Alex	3B	NYN
R1 P4	Tavo	Utley, Chase	2B	PHI
R1 P5	thetrueguru	Kemp, Matt	OF	LA
R1 P6	Rotocommunity_Buck	Braun, Ryan	OF	MIL
R1 P7	Smack My Pitch Up!	Fielder, Prince	1B	MIL
R1 P8	RotoCommunityNord	Mauer, Joe	C	MIN
R1 P9	Fear No Evil	Teixeira, Mark	1B	NYN
R1 P10	Satan Manning	Howard, Ryan	1B	PHI
R1 P11	Bob Sikon - Fantasy Ba	Longoria, Evan	3B	TB
R1 P12	Andromeda Ascendant	Reynolds, Mark	3B	ARI

I'm sticking my neck out by taking Joe Mauer this early. Most will say he is a late first-round pick, but I like him right where I got him. I say that because back in the 90's, Mike Piazza and Ivan Rodriguez were first-round locks, while others in the league were putting up 50+ HR, .350+ BA, 300+ K, and sub-2.50 ERA. Gone are those days, but Joe Mauer has been able to win three batting titles and has started to hit for power, making him the total package -- leaps and bounds ahead of any other catcher. Mauer ranked first in R, HR, and BA for catchers and second in RBI, third in AB (523), and tied for 9th in SB. Did I forget to mention that he missed the first month of the season too. Only a handful of catchers will give you good fantasy numbers, so locking up Mauer, who is just hitting his prime at the age of 26, is a must.

Team Report: Mauer gives me an early jump in batting average and should post solid stats in R, HR, and RBI.

ROUND 2

R2 P1	Andromeda Ascendant	Kinsler, Ian	2B	TEX
R2 P2	Bob Sikon - Fantasy Ba	Cabrera, Miguel	1B	DET
R2 P3	Satan Manning	Crawford, Carl	OF	TB
R2 P4	Fear No Evil	Lincecum, Tim	SP	SF
R2 P5	RotoCommunityNord	Wright, David	3B	NYM
R2 P6	Smack My Pitch Up!	Zimmerman, Ryan	3B	WAS
R2 P7	Rotocommunity_Buck	Rollins, Jimmy	SS	PHI

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R2 P8	thetrueguru	Ellsbury, Jacoby	OF	BOS
R2 P9	Tavo	Tulowitzki, Troy	SS	COL
R2 P10	KFFL	Holliday, Matt	OF	STL
R2 P11	Ivar Anderson-Fantasy	Phillips, Brandon	2B	CIN
R2 P12	Soup 2 Nuts	Upton, Justin	OF	ARI

It looks like the top of the 2nd round will be rich, as Cabrera, Crawford, and Lincecum all went before me. Getting a late pick this year might not be all that bad. I was very happy getting David Wright in the second round. Wright had a bad season in 2009, but he still hit for average and stole 27 bases. With a healthy line-up around him this year and the addition of Jason Bay, Wright will see his R-HR-RBI ghead back up towards his norms. Wright is also hitting his prime at age 27, so a 25/25 season or more may not be out of his reach.

Team Report: I now have two thin positions filled with elite players. Batting average is still looking very strong, but HR and RBI are on the weak side.

ROUND 3

R3 P1	Soup 2 Nuts	Reyes, Jose	SS	NYM
R3 P2	Ivar Anderson-Fantasy	Hernandez, Felix	SP	SEA
R3 P3	KFFL	Pedroia, Dustin	2B	BOS
R3 P4	Tavo	Sizemore, Grady	OF	CLE
R3 P5	thetrueguru	Votto, Joey	1B	CIN
R3 P6	Rotocommunity_Buck	Youkilis, Kevin	1B	BOS
R3 P7	Smack My Pitch Up!	Greinke, Zack	SP	KC
R3 P8	RotoCommunityNord	Suzuki, Ichiro	OF	SEA
R3 P9	Fear No Evil	Bay, Jason	OF	NYM
R3 P10	Satan Manning	Martinez, Victor	C	BOS
R3 P11	Bob Sikon - Fantasy Ba	Werth, Jayson	OF	PHI
R3 P12	Andromeda Ascendant	Gonzalez, Adrian	1B	SD

A few big names in Jose Reyes and Grady Sizemore fell into the third round. Both have been first-rounders and could be again. The only pick I was not really happy about, looking back at

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the draft, was Ichiro Suzuki herein the 3rd round. The Mariners have improved their offense this off-season, so Ichiro will hopefully see his runs rebound. With Figgins in Seattle, Ichiro could move down in the order, too, giving him more RBI. His SB have gone down, but if you can get 25-30 SB out of Ichiro and a .310+ BA, Ichiro in the third will look like a solid pick. One would hope.

Team Report: Again going after a high-average hitter, my team can now take on some low batting average guys, with Mauer and Ichiro in tow. My team is running away with average but hurting badly now in HR and RBI.

ROUND 4

R4 P1	Andromeda Ascendant	Sandoval, Pablo	3B	SF
R4 P2	Bob Sikon - Fantasy Ba	Lind, Adam	OF	TOR
R4 P3	Satan Manning	Halladay, Roy	SP	PHI
R4 P4	Fear No Evil	Sabathia, CC	SP	NYY
R4 P5	RotoCommunityNord	Morneau, Justin	1B	MIN
R4 P6	Smack My Pitch Up!	Cano, Robinson	2B	NYY
R4 P7	Rotocommunity_Buck	Roberts, Brian	2B	BAL
R4 P8	thetrueguru	Haren, Dan	SP	ARI
R4 P9	Tavo	Figgins, Chone	3B	SEA
R4 P10	KFFL	McCann, Brian	C	ATL
R4 P11	Ivar Anderson-Fantasy	Dunn, Adam	OF	WAS
R4 P12	Soup 2 Nuts	Santana, Johan	SP	NYM

Going into the 4th round, I was looking for best power hitter all the way and was happy to see Justin Morneau fall to me. He was the last of the elite first basemen on my list. I was happy to be able to lock up a top 3B and 1B early in the draft as anchors. Morneau won't hit 40 HR, but he is a league leader every year in RBI and can give you 30 HR and a respectable batting average.

Team Report: Morneau gives me a big boost in RBI, which was an area of need for my team. I'm still sitting with ++ BA, good R totals and in the middle of the pack HR, RBI, SB.

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ROUND 5

R5 P1	Soup 2 Nuts	Hill, Aaron	2B	TOR
R5 P2	Ivar Anderson-Fantasy	Broxton, Jonathan	RP	LA
R5 P3	KFFL	Verlander, Justin	SP	DET
R5 P4	Tavo	Berkman, Lance	1B	HOU
R5 P5	thetrueguru	Granderson, Curtis	OF	NYN
R5 P6	Rotocommunity_Buck	Markakis, Nick	OF	BAL
R5 P7	Smack My Pitch Up!	Ramirez, Manny	OF	LA
R5 P8	RotoCommunityNord	Morales, Kendry	1B	ANA
R5 P9	Fear No Evil	Hamilton, Josh	OF	TEX
R5 P10	Satan Manning	Zobrist, Ben	2B	TB
R5 P11	Bob Sikon - Fantasy Ba	Lee, Carlos	OF	HOU
R5 P12	Andromeda Ascendant	Cruz, Nelson	OF	TEX

In the fifth round, I was all set to take my first early-round sleeper in Curtis Granderson, but he was taken a few picks before my pick. He could be a monster in NY, and I'll have to note that I need to take him earlier if I want him next time. I ended up filling my CI by selecting Kendry Morales. I was looking at OF, but the list of CI was looking thin, so I snatched up Morales, who had a big season last year and should be able to produce similar numbers again this year.

Team Report: Morales fills my CI, and I'm loaded with Power, BA, and some Speed at CI. My team now needs some work on SB, and I'm starting to look at pitching, too.

ROUND 6

R6 P1	Andromeda Ascendant	Ethier, Andre	OF	LA
R6 P2	Bob Sikon - Fantasy Ba	Papelbon, Jonathan	RP	BOS
R6 P3	Satan Manning	Choo, Shin-Soo	OF	CLE
R6 P4	Fear No Evil	Lee, Cliff	SP	SEA
R6 P5	RotoCommunityNord	Jeter, Derek	SS	NYN
R6 P6	Smack My Pitch Up!	Victorino, Shane	OF	PHI
R6 P7	Rotocommunity_Buck	Wainwright, Adam	SP	STL

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R6 P8	thetrueguru	Hanson, Tommy	SP	ATL
R6 P9	Tavo	Lester, Jon	SP	BOS
R6 P10	KFFL	Upton, B.J.	OF	TB
R6 P11	Ivar Anderson-Fantasy	Bruce, Jay	OF	CIN
R6 P12	Soup 2 Nuts	Ramirez, Aramis	3B	CHC

In the sixth round, I took a guy whom I have had bad luck with, in Derek Jeter. I have drafted Jeter only twice for money leagues and in those two years... in one he was injured, and in 2008 he barely hit .300 and only had 11 HR and 11 SB. The nice thing is a bad season by Jeter is a top-five season bat the SS position. You have to love a guy that does not miss time and puts up solid numbers year in and year out. Jeter is getting older, but he can still hit. I'm not counting on a lot of power or speed, but the R will be solid, and he should be able to produce a fair amount of RBI. Jeter has only stolen over 30 bases four times in his career and averages just over 20 in a full season, so make sure you don't write him down for 30 when drafting.

Team Report: I filled another thin position -- Jeter at SS. My team can really take on a few low batting average guys now. I'm still weak in SB, but Jeter helps. A few SP aces are on the board -- it's about time to go get one.

ROUND 7

R7 P1	Soup 2 Nuts	Johnson, Josh	SP	FLA
R7 P2	Ivar Anderson-Fantasy	Beckham, Gordon	3B	CHW
R7 P3	KFFL	Pena, Carlos	1B	TB
R7 P4	Tavo	Rivera, Mariano	RP	NYY
R7 P5	thetrueguru	Nathan, Joe	RP	MIN
R7 P6	Rotocommunity_Buck	Abreu, Bobby	OF	ANA
R7 P7	Smack My Pitch Up!	Nolasco, Ricky	SP	FLA
R7 P8	RotoCommunityNord	Butler, Billy	1B	KC
R7 P9	Fear No Evil	Vazquez, Javier	SP	NYY
R7 P10	Satan Manning	Young, Michael	3B	TEX
R7 P11	Bob Sikon - Fantasy Ba	Beckett, Josh	SP	BOS
R7 P12	Andromeda Ascendant	Hamels, Cole	SP	PHI

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Seventh round I was starting to look for a staff ace or closer. Top closers Joe Nathan and Mariano Rivera were off the board, along with Jon Lester. A nice list of SP were still available in Javier Vazquez, Matt Cain, and Josh Beckett, so I decided to take another bat. I took Billy Butler to fill my Utility spot, and I feel he can put together a big year. Last year, Butler had 52 doubles and 21 HR to go with a .300 average. He had a big second half and looks like a younger Joey Votto to me. I now have three first basemen -- other teams will be hurting later in the draft.

Team Report: I nabbed another big stick to add to my HR and RBI totals. It was very early to fill up the Utility position, but I now have a solid core of HR-RBI players. It's time to focus my next few picks on pitching.

ROUND 8

R8 P1	Andromeda Ascendant	Gallardo, Yovani	SP	MIL
R8 P2	Bob Sikon - Fantasy Ba	Carpenter, Chris	SP	STL
R8 P3	Satan Manning	Cain, Matt	SP	SF
R8 P4	Fear No Evil	Bourn, Michael	OF	HOU
R8 P5	RotoCommunityNord	Soria, Joakim	RP	KC
R8 P6	Smack My Pitch Up!	Kershaw, Clayton	SP	LA
R8 P7	Rotocommunity_Buck	Lee, Derrek	1B	CHC
R8 P8	thetrueguru	Uggla, Dan	2B	FLA
R8 P9	Tavo	Pence, Hunter	OF	HOU
R8 P10	KFFL	Peavy, Jake	SP	CHW
R8 P11	Ivar Anderson-Fantasy	Anderson, Brett	SP	OAK
R8 P12	Soup 2 Nuts	McCutchen, Andrew	OF	PIT

After my Butler pick all of the aces I was looking at (Vazquez, Cain, Beckett) were dropping like flies. It was down to Clayton Kershaw or take one of the last elite closers in Joakim Soria. I took Soria to lock up a sure-thing closer. I also thought I could get Kershaw with my next pick. The pick right after me was Kershaw so I was kind of mad I took Soria, but one thing to remember is that pitching is deep this year.

Team Report: I drafted a pitcher! Soria is a top-end closer and will make your season less stressful, knowing you have a full-time closer locked up. Looking over my notes, I see that I

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need to start building my SP rotation and add another OF or two before they get thin.

ROUND 9

R9 P1	Soup 2 Nuts	Rodriguez, Wandy	SP	HOU
R9 P2	Ivar Anderson-Fantasy	Gonzalez, Carlos	OF	COL
R9 P3	KFFL	Bell, Heath	RP	SD
R9 P4	Tavo	Wieters, Matt	C	BAL
R9 P5	thetrueguru	Ramirez, Alexei	SS	CHW
R9 P6	Rotocommunity_Buck	Rodriguez, Francisco	RP	NYM
R9 P7	Smack My Pitch Up!	Stewart, Ian	3B	COL
R9 P8	RotoCommunityNord	Jurrjens, Jair	SP	ATL
R9 P9	Fear No Evil	Soriano, Alfonso	OF	CHC
R9 P10	Satan Manning	Hunter, Torii	OF	ANA
R9 P11	Bob Sikon - Fantasy Ba	Bartlett, Jason	SS	TB
R9 P12	Andromeda Ascendant	Jones, Adam	OF	BAL

In the ninth round, I was looking to add another young sleeper in Andrew McCutchen. He was picked at the end of the 8th round, so I started looking to pitching again, because I still need my ace. ERA stud Jair Jurrjens was still on the board, so I scooped him up. Jurrjens won't help me with the K, but he is on a good team and should be able to reach 14 wins. That's not bad for a guy who will be among the league leaders again in ERA.

Team Report: I now have an ace on my staff. I need to find some high-K guys. Jurrjens should help offset a higher-ERA pitcher with K later. The draft is now entering the tenth round, and teams will start filling in needs. It's time to do the same myself and find some sleepers.

ROUND 10

R10 P1	Andromeda Ascendant	Lopez, Jose	2B	SEA
R10 P2	Bob Sikon - Fantasy Ba	Valverde, Jose	RP	DET

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R10 P3	Satan Manning	Cordero, Francisco	RP	CIN
R10 P4	Fear No Evil	Beltran, Carlos	OF	NYM
R10 P5	RotoCommunityNord	Rios, Alex	OF	CHW
R10 P6	Smack My Pitch Up!	Quentin, Carlos	OF	CHW
R10 P7	Rotocommunity_Buck	Posada, Jorge	C	NYN
R10 P8	thetrueguru	Drew, Stephen	SS	ARI
R10 P9	Tavo	Burnett, A.J.	SP	NYN
R10 P10	KFFL	Kubel, Jason	OF	MIN
R10 P11	Ivar Anderson-Fantasy	Bailey, Andrew	RP	OAK
R10 P12	Soup 2 Nuts	McLouth, Nate	OF	ATL

I only had one OF in a five-OF league, so I started looking for OF and found Alex Rios. Last year, Rios was ugly. I, like many, thought his move to Chicago would turn his season around, but it didn't. Rios has a 20/20 season in him, and if he can get his average back up in the .280s like in the past, he should hit those marks easily. Rios offers good value at this point of the draft.

Team Report: I filled my second outfield spot and added some much-needed speed. I also gain some power, and if Rios fails to hit for average, my team can handle it. I still like a lot of OF and SP in the draft at this juncture.

ROUND 11

R11 P1	Soup 2 Nuts	Street, Huston	RP	COL
R11 P2	Ivar Anderson-Fantasy	Reimold, Nolan	OF	BAL
R11 P3	KFFL	Webb, Brandon	SP	ARI
R11 P4	Tavo	Ibanez, Raul	OF	PHI
R11 P5	thetrueguru	Soriano, Rafael	RP	TB
R11 P6	Rotocommunity_Buck	Lackey, John	SP	BOS
R11 P7	Smack My Pitch Up!	Morgan, Nyjer	OF	WAS
R11 P8	RotoCommunityNord	Billingsley, Chad	SP	LA
R11 P9	Fear No Evil	Damon, Johnny	OF	NYN
R11 P10	Satan Manning	Escobar, Yunel	SS	ATL
R11 P11	Bob Sikon - Fantasy Ba	Jimenez, Ubaldo	SP	COL
R11 P12	Andromeda Ascendant	Cuddyer, Michael	OF	MIN

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I selected Chad Billingsley, who had a down year in 2009, with my 11th-round pick. I feel that Billingsley should be able to get his ERA under 4 again, and I should be able to get 175+ K out of him. He still has a lot of upside and can still post ace-like numbers.

Team Report: Billingsley will help my team out with K and should put up solid numbers across the board. I'm now up to 3 of my 9 pitchers, but from my notes, I should draft more with my upcoming picks. I'm also still looking at OF.

ROUND 12

R12 P1	Andromeda Ascendant	Borbon, Julio	OF	TEX
R12 P2	Bob Sikon - Fantasy Ba	Suzuki, Kurt	C	OAK
R12 P3	Satan Manning	Aardsma, David	RP	SEA
R12 P4	Fear No Evil	Fuentes, Brian	RP	ANA
R12 P5	RotoCommunityNord	Marmol, Carlos	RP	CHC
R12 P6	Smack My Pitch Up!	Span, Denard	OF	MIN
R12 P7	Rotocommunity_Buck	Jones, Chipper	3B	ATL
R12 P8	thetrueguru	Martin, Russell	C	LA
R12 P9	Tavo	Wilson, Brian	RP	SF
R12 P10	KFFL	Shields, James	SP	TB
R12 P11	Ivar Anderson-Fantasy	Baker, Scott	SP	MIN
R12 P12	Soup 2 Nuts	Andrus, Elvis	SS	TEX

In the 12th round, the middle tier of closers was getting thin. I took Carlos Marmol, who could be a really good pick or a very bad pick. Marmol had no control last season, but still took over the closer role. If he has the same control problems this year, he could lose his job and hurt your team with a high WHIP. But if he doesn't, he could be a top-five closer with the number of K he can pile up.

Team Report: That makes four pitchers on my team, and I have my closers locked up. Soria and Marmol will give me a good number of K from my closers, and both should be able to hold their job. We have hit the middle of the draft, and it looks like more OF and SP for me in the next few rounds.

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ROUND 13

R13 P1	Soup 2 Nuts	Hoffman, Trevor	RP	MIL
R13 P2	Ivar Anderson-Fantasy	Jones, Garrett	OF	PIT
R13 P3	KFFL	Furcal, Rafael	SS	LA
R13 P4	Tavo	Garza, Matt	SP	TB
R13 P5	thetrueguru	Weaver, Jered	SP	ANA
R13 P6	Rotocommunity_Buck	Hawpe, Brad	OF	COL
R13 P7	Smack My Pitch Up!	Soto, Geovany	C	CHC
R13 P8	RotoCommunityNord	Montero, Miguel	C	ARI
R13 P9	Fear No Evil	Delgado, Carlos	1B	NYM
R13 P10	Satan Manning	Davis, Rajai	OF	OAK
R13 P11	Bob Sikon - Fantasy Ba	Kendrick, Howie	2B	ANA
R13 P12	Andromeda Ascendant	Aybar, Erick	SS	ANA

A few drop-offs were coming up, with MI and C. Geovany Soto was taken right before me, and other upper-tier catchers in Suzuki and Martin were taken in the 12th round. I had to jump on Miguel Montero before it was too late and I was left drafting a low-end catcher at the end of the draft. Montero had a great season last year and will be the full-time catcher this year. Montero was 6th in R, 9th in HR and RBI, and 4th in BA for catchers. I'm not sure if the average will be around .294 again, but he should add to his other totals playing full-time this season. With Montero, I had my two catchers and was happy that I would be getting great production from that position. Also note that not many good catchers will be on the board after the middle of the draft, so if you like getting production from your catchers, make sure to grab them by the middle of the draft.

Team Report: My team is starting to fill out, as I have CI and C filled. My team still needs some speed, and not many speed guys are left. It's time to look for MI or OF that can help me there and keep an eye on SP.

ROUND 14

R14 P1	Andromeda Ascendant	de la Rosa, Jorge	SP	COL
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R14 P2	Bob Sikon - Fantasy Ba	Wagner, Billy	RP	ATL
R14 P3	Satan Manning	Cabrera, Asdrubal	SS	CLE
R14 P4	Fear No Evil	Tejada, Miguel	SS	BAL
R14 P5	RotoCommunityNord	Hart, Corey	OF	MIL
R14 P6	Smack My Pitch Up!	Napoli, Mike	C	ANA
R14 P7	Rotocommunity_Buck	Molina, Bengie	C	SF
R14 P8	thetrueguru	Jackson, Edwin	SP	ARI
R14 P9	Tavo	Beltre, Adrian	3B	BOS
R14 P10	KFFL	Franklin, Ryan	RP	STL
R14 P11	Ivar Anderson-Fantasy	Doumit, Ryan	C	PIT
R14 P12	Soup 2 Nuts	Iannetta, Chris	C	COL

Outfield was getting thin, and not many sure things were left. Davis was drafted, and he would have been a big help for my team in SB. On the top of my list after him was Corey Hart. Hart battled with some injuries last year and missed some time. Hart has the joy of hitting behind both Ryan Braun and Prince Fielder. Hart should be able to go 20/20 again, with a fair amount of RBI. If his average is around .260 again, my team can take it. In the 14th round, a 20/20 season from Hart is gold.

Team Report: Hart is a plus for my HR, RBI, and SB totals. Like I said, I can take a low average from him, with all my previously drafted high-average hitters. I still need to draft two more outfielders, and I can see the list getting thin, but I also need to draft a lot of pitchers.

ROUND 15

R15 P1	Soup 2 Nuts	Coghlan, Chris	OF	FLA
R15 P2	Ivar Anderson-Fantasy	Hudson, Tim	SP	ATL
R15 P3	KFFL	Jenks, Bobby	RP	CHW
R15 P4	Tavo	Rivera, Juan	OF	ANA
R15 P5	thetrueguru	McGehee, Casey	3B	MIL
R15 P6	Rotocommunity_Buck	Oswalt, Roy	SP	HOU
R15 P7	Smack My Pitch Up!	Scutaro, Marco	SS	BOS
R15 P8	RotoCommunityNord	Feliz, Neftali	SP	TEX
R15 P9	Fear No Evil	Scherzer, Max	SP	DET
R15 P10	Satan Manning	Pierre, Juan	OF	CHW
R15 P11	Bob Sikon - Fantasy Ba	Dempster, Ryan	SP	CHC

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R15 P12	Andromeda Ascendant	Buchholz, Clay	SP	BOS
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I was all ready to draft Marco Scutaro, but he was selected right before me, and I ended up making a foolish pick by taking Neftali Feliz. The word is that he will get a shot in the rotation, and he has a ton of potential. My team needs good strikeout pitchers, and Feliz can come up big in that category. I think I could have waited a round or two on Feliz and taken a vetren starter here, where I know what I'm getting. Feliz will be a big draft day sleeper, who could be moving up a lot by draft day if he looks good in spring training. At this point, though, this could be too early for him.

Team Report: I now have 5 of my 9 pitchers and look like I will be doing well in pitching, but I need a few more solid starters. I'm looking at another SP or OF next. I also have a few MI on my list, but it looks like I can wait on them for now.

ROUND 16

R16 P1	Andromeda Ascendant	Sanchez, Jonathan	SP	SF
R16 P2	Bob Sikon - Fantasy Ba	Cabrera, Orlando	SS	CIN
R16 P3	Satan Manning	Cantu, Jorge	1B	FLA
R16 P4	Fear No Evil	Lilly, Ted	SP	CHC
R16 P5	RotoCommunityNord	Kazmir, Scott	SP	ANA
R16 P6	Smack My Pitch Up!	Danks, John	SP	CHW
R16 P7	Rotocommunity_Buck	Guerrero, Vladimir	DH	TEX
R16 P8	thetrueguru	Price, David	SP	TB
R16 P9	Tavo	Olivo, Miguel	C	COL
R16 P10	KFFL	Gutierrez, Franklin	OF	SEA
R16 P11	Ivar Anderson-Fantasy	Gonzalez, Mike	RP	BAL
R16 P12	Soup 2 Nuts	Floyd, Gavin	SP	CHW

Pitchers were flying off the board. Five pitchers drafted in eight picks made my pick of Scott Kazmir easy. Kazmir looked good at the end of the season, after being traded to the Angels. Kazmir is an injury risk, but he could get you 200+ K in a full season.

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Team Report: Kazmir gives me another good K pitcher, and my staff is starting to look strong. ERA and WHIP could be a weak spot right now. Wins are always hard to gauge, but all my starters are on winning teams. I still need 7 more players (3 P, 2 OF, 2B, MI). At this point, I'll take the best player available, but OF is getting very thin. I'm going to look at OF next.

ROUND 17

R17 P1	Soup 2 Nuts	LaRoche, Adam	1B	ARI
R17 P2	Ivar Anderson-Fantasy	Loney, James	1B	LA
R17 P3	KFFL	Davis, Chris	1B	TEX
R17 P4	Tavo	Brayan, Russ	1B	SEA
R17 P5	thetrueguru	Nunez, Leo	RP	FLA
R17 P6	Rotocommunity_Buck	Francisco, Frank	RP	TEX
R17 P7	Smack My Pitch Up!	Sheets, Ben	SP	OAK
R17 P8	RotoCommunityNord	Wells, Vernon	OF	TOR
R17 P9	Fear No Evil	Zambrano, Carlos	SP	CHC
R17 P10	Satan Manning	Konerko, Paul	1B	CHW
R17 P11	Bob Sikon - Fantasy Ba	Molina, Yadier	C	STL
R17 P12	Andromeda Ascendant	Wood, Kerry	RP	CLE

The top five players on my list at the time were Vernon Wells, Rich Harden, Joba Chamberlain, Ryan Ludwick and Everth Cabrera. I ended up taking Wells, as it seems he does well every other year, and this year would be the good year in the pattern. Wells is not the player he used to be, but he can still get 15-20 HR and 10+ SB. Outfield is getting ugly, but I only have one more to draft.

Team Report: Wells is not a strong outfielder, but he will fill the roll. He has done well in the past, and I hope he can stay healthy. My team needs speed, and MI has a few speedsters and is still deep. There was a big 1B run to start the 17th round. I'm glad I had that spot all locked up long ago.

ROUND 18

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R18 P1	Andromeda Ascendant	Dotel, Octavio	RP	PIT
R18 P2	Bob Sikon - Fantasy Ba	Peralta, Jhonny	3B	CLE
R18 P3	Satan Manning	Harden, Rich	SP	TEX
R18 P4	Fear No Evil	Hudson, Orlando	2B	LA
R18 P5	RotoCommunityNord	Chamberlain, Joba	SP	NYN
R18 P6	Smack My Pitch Up!	Cabrera, Everth	SS	SD
R18 P7	Rotocommunity_Buck	Ludwick, Ryan	OF	STL
R18 P8	thetrueguru	Maybin, Cameron	OF	FLA
R18 P9	Tavo	Cueto, Johnny	SP	CIN
R18 P10	KFFL	Weeks, Rickie	2B	MIL
R18 P11	Ivar Anderson-Fantasy	Gomez, Carlos	OF	MIL
R18 P12	Soup 2 Nuts	Qualls, Chad	RP	ARI

Rich Harden was taken a few picks before mine, so I took the top pitcher on my list in Joba Chamberlain. It's a gamble pick, as he still needs to win a spot in the rotation. I think Joba can have a big season if the Yankee's don't mess with him and just keep him in the rotation. Joba was doing alright last year until they started skipping him in the rotation and holding his pitch count down.

Team Report: If Joba is in the rotation, it's a great pick, but if he isn't, I'll be kicking myself. ERA and WHIP are still weak, but Joba is a plus for W and K.

ROUND 19

R19 P1	Soup 2 Nuts	Helton, Todd	1B	COL
R19 P2	Ivar Anderson-Fantasy	Polanco, Placido	2B	PHI
R19 P3	KFFL	Matsuzaka, Daisuke	SP	BOS
R19 P4	Tavo	Lidge, Brad	RP	PHI
R19 P5	thetrueguru	Madson, Ryan	RP	PHI
R19 P6	Rotocommunity_Buck	Theriot, Ryan	SS	CHC
R19 P7	Smack My Pitch Up!	Liriano, Francisco	SP	MIN
R19 P8	RotoCommunityNord	Barnes, Clint	2B	COL
R19 P9	Fear No Evil	Wolf, Randy	SP	MIL
R19 P10	Satan Manning	Arroyo, Bronson	SP	CIN
R19 P11	Bob Sikon - Fantasy Ba	Slowey, Kevin	SP	MIN
R19 P12	Andromeda Ascendant	Capps, Matt	RP	WAS

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After Joba, the top two guys on my list went back to back, sending me looking for OF and MI. I was happy to see Clint Barmes still around when it got back to my pick. Barmes might not be a everyday player, but with the numbers he put up last year, it's hard to not consider taking him. Prospect Eric Young Jr. is waiting in the wings, but Barmes can provide power and speed -- something you can't find at MI this late in the draft.

Team Report: Barmes comes with a low average, but my team should be able to handle it easily. The power has me sitting well, but I could still use some more speed. I'm down to four picks and need MI, OF, and 2 P.

ROUND 20

R20 P1	Andromeda Ascendant	Thornton, Matt	RP	CHW
R20 P2	Bob Sikon - Fantasy Ba	Rasmus, Colby	OF	STL
R20 P3	Satan Manning	Harang, Aaron	SP	CIN
R20 P4	Fear No Evil	Gordon, Alex	3B	KC
R20 P5	RotoCommunityNord	Escobar, Alcides	SS	MIL
R20 P6	Smack My Pitch Up!	Stubbs, Drew	OF	CIN
R20 P7	Rotocommunity_Buck	Lindstrom, Matt	RP	HOU
R20 P8	thetrueguru	Cameron, Mike	OF	BOS
R20 P9	Tavo	Snider, Travis	OF	TOR
R20 P10	KFFL	Dye, Jermaine	OF	CHW
R20 P11	Ivar Anderson-Fantasy	Santana, Carlos	C	CLE
R20 P12	Soup 2 Nuts	Blanks, Kyle	OF	SD

Nothing was standing out at this point, other than Alcides Escobar. I still needed to add some speed, and Escobar should reach 20+ SB. Only two other middle infielders were drafted after Escobar. He will hit in front of two big RBI guys and has the speed to reach 30+ SB if they let him run.

Team Report: I was very happy to get Escobar here, as he will help me in SB and R. I'm very happy with my team at this point. Offense has gone according to plan, with a good deal of balance. I still need one OF and two SP -- targeting SP next.

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ROUND 21

R21 P1	Soup 2 Nuts	Kuroda, Hiroki	SP	LA
R21 P2	Ivar Anderson-Fantasy	Ordonez, Magglio	OF	DET
R21 P3	KFFL	Pierzynski, A.J.	C	CHW
R21 P4	Tavo	Hardy, J.J.	SS	MIN
R21 P5	thetrueguru	DeRosa, Mark	3B	SF
R21 P6	Rotocommunity_Buck	Porcello, Rick	SP	DET
R21 P7	Smack My Pitch Up!	Bedard, Erik	SP	SEA
R21 P8	RotoCommunityNord	Strasburg, Stephen	SP	WAS
R21 P9	Fear No Evil	Izturis, Maicer	2B	ANA
R21 P10	Satan Manning	Buehrle, Mark	SP	CHW
R21 P11	Bob Sikon - Fantasy Ba	Byrd, Marlon	OF	CHC
R21 P12	Andromeda Ascendant	Heyward, Jason	OF	ATL

In the 21st round, I took Stephen Strasburg. I was kind of shocked he was still on the board, as some have been ranking him very high. He's another guy to watch this spring, to see if he breaks camp with the Nats. He could be the ROY if he does.

Team Report: I should have gone with a sure thing in Buehrle, as Strasburg could start in the minors. My team cannot take that hit, with Feliz and Joba fighting for a spot on their teams too. Overall, this was another make-or-break pick.

ROUND 22

R22 P1	Andromeda Ascendant	Ruiz, Carlos	C	PHI
R22 P2	Bob Sikon - Fantasy Ba	Santana, Ervin	SP	ANA
R22 P3	Satan Manning	Shoppach, Kelly	C	TB
R22 P4	Fear No Evil	Posey, Buster	C	SF
R22 P5	RotoCommunityNord	Lowe, Derek	SP	ATL
R22 P6	Smack My Pitch Up!	Blanton, Joe	SP	PHI
R22 P7	Rotocommunity_Buck	Pettitte, Andy	SP	NYN
R22 P8	thetrueguru	Cabrera, Melky	OF	ATL

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R22 P9	Tavo	Saunders, Joe	SP	ANA
R22 P10	KFFL	Matusz, Brian	SP	BAL
R22 P11	Ivar Anderson-Fantasy	Correia, Kevin	SP	SD
R22 P12	Soup 2 Nuts	Happ, J.A.	SP	PHI

Pitching was starting to get thin, so I pick my last pitcher, Derek Lowe. Lowe was another pitcher who had a down year, but this late in the draft, he is worth taking a shot on. I was also looking at Happ and Pettitte, who were taken later in the round.

Team Report: Pitching is filled, and my staff looks middle-of-the-road with upside. I need a lot of things to work out, but it does have the potential to be a great staff. Down to OF for my last pick, let's see if I can find a gem.

ROUND 23

R23 P1	Soup 2 Nuts	Baker, John	C	FLA
R23 P2	Ivar Anderson-Fantasy	Duchscherer, Justin	SP	OAK
R23 P3	KFFL	Ortiz, David	DH	BOS
R23 P4	Tavo	Howell, J.P.	RP	TB
R23 P5	thetrueguru	Hanigan, Ryan	C	CIN
R23 P6	Rotocommunity_Buck	Hughes, Philip	SP	NYY
R23 P7	Smack My Pitch Up!	Bumgarner, Madison	SP	SF
R23 P8	RotoCommunityNord	Swisher, Nick	OF	NYY
R23 P9	Fear No Evil	Varitek, Jason	C	BOS
R23 P10	Satan Manning	Lewis, Colby	SP	TEX
R23 P11	Bob Sikon - Fantasy Ba	Drew, J.D.	OF	BOS
R23 P12	Andromeda Ascendant	Rodriguez, Ivan	C	WAS

My last pick of the draft was Nick Swisher. Swisher had a big year with the Yankees, posting good power numbers, along with a good batting average. Swisher will have RF all to himself this year, so another good year can certainly occur.

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Team Report: Overall, I was happy with my team. Pitching was my weakest area by far. I took a lot of chances on pitching and one cannot leave a draft with that many make-or-break pitchers. I could end up with two set-up men in Joba and Feliz, and a player in the minors in Strasburg. I think I did better with my hitters. I have a lot of high BA hitters, along with just enough speed and power to be in the upper half of those categories.

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