

MLB - 2010 Fantasy Baseball Closer/Relief Pitcher (CL/RP) Tiered Rankings

Written by Dave Gawron

Saturday, 13 March 2010 00:00 - Last Updated Tuesday, 30 March 2010 12:41

See our player profiles for detailed analysis and projections, but here's the low-down on closers in 2010. DP is the recommended MIXED league draft position. Dollar value is the AL/NL-only league number (basically cut in half in mixed leagues).

(updated 3/29/10)

TIER 1 (elite)

	DP	Lastname	Firstname\$	P	P2	
73			Broxton		Jonathan	25
74			Rivera		Mariano	25
75			Papelbon		Jonathan	25

Three guys you don't have to worry about, but are they worth the price?

TIER 2 (solid)

84		Rodriguez	Francisco	23	1	
95			Soria		Joakim	22

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96	Bell	Heath	22
102	Cordero	Francisco	21
111	Bailey	Andrew	20
112	Valverde	Jose	20
113	Wilson	Brian	20

K-Rod is aging, and Soria is on a lousy team, but they'll still get the job done. Bell could potentially save his last game on July 31, before getting traded. All of these are fairly safe bets.

TIER 3 (shaky)

118	Street	Huston	20	1
119		Marmol	Carlos	20
127		Franklin	Ryan	19

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128	Aardsma	David	19
129	Soriano	Rafael	19
130	Fuentes	Brian	19
149	Jenks	Bobby	17
150	Hoffman	Trevor	17
151	Francisco	Frank	17

This is where it gets iffy, but most of these are worth grabbing at a discount. Beware of Street's injury proclivity, Marmol's control, Franklin's inflated 09 numbers, Aardsma's lack of a track record, Soriano's injuries, Fuentes' and Jenks' potential to lose the job, Hoffman's and Wagner's ages, Francisco's possibility of being traded, and Gonzalez' and Qualls' lack of elite talent.

TIER 4 (bad)

171	Wagner	Billy	16	1
172		Gonzalez	Mike	16

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173	Qualls	Chad	15
174	Lidge	Brad	15
175	Dotel	Octavio	15
197	Capps	Matt	14
198	Nunez	Leo	14

For all we know, Lidge and Dotel are done health-wise, Capps has lost it, Wood can't stay healthy, and Nunez never really had it to begin with.

TIER 5 (a mixed bag)

243	Perez	Chris	9	1		
263		Lyon			Brandon	8
360		Frasor			Jason	4
361		Rauch			Jon	4

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362	Gregg	Kevin	4
363	Downs	Scott	4
364	Lindstrom	Matt	4
365	Madson	Ryan	4
366	Howell	J.P.	4
367	Chamberlain	Joba	4
398	Rodney	Fernando	3
399	Motte	Jason	3

We see Joba setting up Mariano all year. We're not sure how long Chris Perez will hold the job. Lyon could easily lose his job, Frasor, Downs, and Gregg could all end up in a time-share, Rauch is in a committee, and Lindstrom perhaps just can't cut it as a closer. The rest at least have a shot at some saves this season.

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TIER 6 (AL/NL-only fodder)

400	Hanrahan	Joel	3	1		
401		Gutierrez			Juan	3
443		Gregerson			Luke	2
444		Wood			Kerry	2
445		Saito			Takashi	2
446		Wuertz			Mike	2
447		Thornton			Matt	2
448		Bard			Daniel	2
449		Guerrier			Matt	2
450		Wilson			C.J.	2

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These are either nice ERA/WHIP or K guys to have around or have the potential to pick up some saves. Either way, they can help in single universe leagues.

Some others of interest not listed above: Morales, Adams, Hawkins, J. Johnson, Sherrill, Meyer, Gervasio, Affeldt, Moylan, Masset, Storen, D. Robertson, Okajima, League, Putz, Jepsen, Perry, Coke, Mijares, Devine, Betancourt, Bruney, Baez

ALSO

Our 2010 Fantasy Baseball Draft Kit can help you win your league this year, so check out the whole kit. And don't forget, we will promptly answer any questions you may have about your team, line-up, waiver wire, and trades in our [FORUM](#). It just takes a minute to [REGISTER](#) a username and password for our site (allowing you to download draft kit files and post reviews, comments, blogs, and forum topics).