

MLB - 2010 Fantasy Baseball Kansas City Royals Team Preview

Written by Patrick Mayo

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We have many great articles planned leading up to the 2010 Fantasy Baseball season including sleepers, busts, rookies, strategy, full player rankings and projections all wrapped up into a nifty draft kit to help you win your league next year. Stay tuned for more, but for now, here's a team preview for you.

Ask a question about your fantasy team in our [FORUM](#) . Leave a comment about this article down below.

2009 RECORD: 65-97, 5th AL Central

Stat table note: The better the ranking number, the better the stat, in all categories. For example, for the SO cat for hitting, a #2 ranking means that the team tallied the second fewest strikeouts. For the BB and SB cats for pitching, the #1 teams allowed the fewest bases on balls and steals.

Hitting	BA	R	HR	BB
Stats	259	686	144	457
AL	12	13	13	13
MLB	20	23	24	27
Pitching	BAA	ERA	HR	BB
Stats	269	4.83	166	600
AL	10	12	2	14
MLB	22	26	11	25

LINE-UP

1. Podsednik, Scott LF
2. DeJesus, David RF
3. Ankiel, Rick CF
4. Guillen, Jose DH (hamstring, should be ready for spring training)
5. Butler, Billy 1B
6. Gordon, Alex 3B
7. Callaspo, Alberto 2B
8. Kendall, Jason C
9. Betancourt, Yuniesky SS

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Of the many adjectives to describe Kansas City's offense, 'anemic', 'atrocious', and 'hideous' all come to mind, but I decree 'underwhelming' as the most fitting term for this rag-tag cadre of losers. If the Royals were a college, they'd tenure a faculty of failures. Now, this must all appear to be very negative, but the more you tie your fantasy success to Kansas City, the worse you're going to fare. If you must try to get some blood out of the rock, target **Billy Butler** and no one else. Butler is currently the 14th first baseman coming off the board, around the 90th pick overall, and any improvement from 2009 will have the youngster outperform that draft slot. As it stands, Butler is a solid three category contributor, and if anyone behind him could hit, he'd be more than an average run donor. Butler should be an excellent value in 2010. That's it. Unless you're in a AL only or 14+ team league, avoid every other Royal like they were a bunch of 14th century Mediterranean merchants -- you know, the ones with the Plague. Headlining the 'Not ready for Prime-time' players is former super prospect

Alex Gordon

. He'll have another season at the hot corner to prove he actually has talent, but it's unlikely that he'll ever actualize his abilities. Even if he can find his power stroke, Gordon's average will sink your team. Stay away.

Rick Ankiel

and his dinger mashing prowess will man center field and be another Royal who will hurt you more than he helps. A shift to the American League will put Ankiel at a disadvantage to begin with, and his historically low average will become more problematic in 2010. If you're team is lacking speed,

Scott Podsednik

could make a respectable late round pick up. Podsednik had a bit of a Renaissance in 2009, posting four year highs in RBI and average. He'll have the chance to hit atop the Kansas City line-up and should hover around the 30 SB mark again this season. The always-screwy

Jose Guillen

will be back to collect his
well earned

\$14 million in 2010. Now without the the aid of PEDs, Guillen is back up to his old tricks -- extended time off to heal himself. Guillen has 20+ HR and 100 RBI potential, but he has a serious effort problem. This usually puts him in a manager's doghouse for at least a few months a year. Save yourself the headache and keep your distance.

Mike Aviles

is a decent MI on the Royals' bench.

STARTING ROTATION

1. Greinke, Zack RHP
2. Meche, Gil RHP
3. Davies, Kyle RHP
4. Hochevar, Luke LHP
5. Bannister, Brian RHP
6. Tejada, Robinson RHP

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Zack Greinke is an early-round stud. **Gil Meche** is barely an end-game consideration in mixed leagues.

Davies and **Hochevar** have some skills but are unlikely to realize any potential in Kansas City.

Bannister

and

Tejada

are MLB innings-eaters.

BULLPEN

1. Soria, Joakim RHP
2. Cruz, Juan RHP
3. Farnsworth, Kyle RHP
4. Herges, Matt RHP
5. Hughes, Dusty LHP
6. Marte, Victor RHP
7. Rosa, Carlos RHP

Soria is a top-notch closer. **Cruz**, **Farnsworth**, and **Herges** are decent enough set-up men.

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