

## MLB - 2010 Fantasy Baseball Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim 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: 97-65, 1st AL West

**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	285	883	173	547
AL	1	2	8	7
MLB	1	2	11	17
Pitching	BAA	ERA	HR	BB
Stats	272	4.45	180	523
AL	11	9	7	4
MLB	24	21	20	6

### LINE-UP

1. Aybar, Erick SS
2. Abreu, Bobby RF
3. Hunter, Torii CF
4. Matsui, Hideki DH
5. Rivera, Juan LF
6. Morales, Kendry 1B
7. Kendrick, Howie 2B
8. Napoli, Mike C
9. Wood, Brandon 3B

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**Torii Hunter** is the real standout from an Angels team that is better in real life than in fantasy. Hunter is one of the few five-category contributors that is available after the fifth round. He may not be a "sexy" pick, but he should produce as a low end number one fantasy outfielder.

### **Kendry Morales**

was great for anyone who was lucky enough to pluck him off of waivers last season, but I have my doubts that he'll live up to the hype again. He got lucky with his balls in play in 2009 and may have trouble replicating his batting average. It may come back to bite me, but I think there are just better, more proven options available at the position. If you miss out on the upper tier of shortstops,

### **Erick Aybar**

may be a nice option later in the draft. Now hitting at the top of the Angels line-up, Aybar will have the chance to be a plus performer in both average and runs. If he can improve his 14 steals to 20+, he'll be a top-10 shortstop in 2010. If

### **Hideki Matsui**

can stay healthy, he'll knock in 90+ runs and hit 25 HR in the middle of this line-up. He'll only qualify at DH, which massively hurts his value, but he can be a cheap source of power coming out of your utility spot.

### **Juan Rivera**

is another cheap source of power in a deep pool of outfielders. Rivera can bash the long ball while still helping in average. He'll be consistent across four categories (all but SB).

### **Mike Napoli**

splits more time than you'd like out of a catcher, but he can bring the pain when it comes to the long ball. If you need your backstop to produce power, Napoli will help -- but he's not someone you should target for multi-category production.

### **Howie Kendrick**

hits for average, but that's about it. If he ends up moving up in the order, he could end the year with an elite run total and even 15-10 SB. Some may call him a potential breakout player, but I call him a nuisance. He looks like he has all the tools but can never string it together. Save yourself the irritation and just avoid him.

## STARTING ROTATION

1. Weaver, Jered RHP
2. Kazmir, Scott LHP
3. Santana, Ervin RHP
4. Saunders, Jon LHP
5. Pineiro, Joel RHP
6. O' Sullivan, Sean RHP
7. Palmer, Matt RHP

**Jered Weaver** is inconsistent. If you could find a way to weed out his terrible starts, he'd be

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rather legendary. But as it is, he's just resigned to being a pitcher that wins you some weeks and loses you others. He's currently going around the same time as Brandon Webb, Jair Jurrjens and Wandy Rodriguez -- all better options. Something bad happened to

### **Scott Kazmir**

. Once hailed as a burgeoning ace, Tampa basically gave Kazmir away at the deadline last year. Maybe he's been cursed. He's going pretty late and is a good value for his potential upside. His walks will always keep his WHIP up, but a high strikeout rate should keep him on fantasy radars. He may not be as washed up as people think. Now a year removed from elbow problems,

### **Ervin Santana**

may be ready to show us the stuff that made him a 16 game winner in 2008. Even with his bum arm, he was still able to consistently strike batters out and should be heavily monitored for the first month of the season. If Santana can jump out to a hot start, snap him up as quickly as possible, as he just might be back to full strength. Stay away from

### **Joel Pineiro**

, as a switch to the American League is not what the doctor ordered. Don't let the 16 wins mask the truth -- you want no part of

### **Joe Saunders**

and his laughably high ERA and WHIP. Massive run support allowed Saunders to excel in 2009, but don't expect history to repeat itself in 2010.

## BULLPEN

1. Fuentes, Brian LHP
2. Shields, Scot RHP (knee, should be ready for spring training)
3. Rodney, Fernando RHP
4. Bulger, Jason RHP
5. Jepsen, Kevin RHP
6. Stokes, Brian RHP

He may have led the majors saves, but **Brian Fuentes** was a below average closer in every other category. His inflated WHIP and ERA leaves the newly signed

### **Francisco Rodney**

as a likely usurper, should Fuentes start to falter. Fuentes is ripe to be a bust this season, and Rodney is a must-handcuff in any sort of deep league. As usual,

### **Scot Shields**

will man the 8th inning and will be an elite source of holds, if you need them.

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