

## MLB - 2010 Fantasy Baseball Seattle Mariners Team Preview

Written by Patrick Mayo

Sunday, 17 January 2010 13:50 - Last Updated Sunday, 17 January 2010 23:31

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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: 85-77, third in 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	258	640	160	527
AL	14	14	12	14
MLB	22	28	17	29
Pitching	BAA	ERA	HR	BB
Stats	247	3.87	172	534
AL	1	1	6	8
MLB	4	6	17	13

### LINE-UP

1. Suzuki, Ichiro LF
2. Figgins, Chone 3B
3. Kotchman, Casey 1B
4. Griffey Jr., Ken DH (knee, should be ready for spring training)
5. Bradley, Milton LF
6. Lopez, Jose 2B
7. Gutierrez, Franklin CF
8. Johnson, Rob C
9. Wilson, Jack SS (heel, should be ready for spring training)

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Now that the Angels' roster has lost some of their better talent, the new-look Mariners are shaping up to be the team to beat in the AL West. While this line-up may not possess the power of other AL contenders, they more than make up for it in speed, pitching and defense. **Ichiro** is back at the top of the order and will be a great asset to any fantasy team. What he lacks in power and run producing prowess, he makes it all up in runs, steals, and especially average. I say 'especially average' because his elevated average is extra important because of his volume of at bats. He may be getting up there in years, but still consider him a Top 10 outfielder in mixed leagues. New third baseman

### **Chone Figgins**

is essentially Ichiro-lite. He'll hit for an excellent average and steal a ton of bases. His run total will take a hit, as he no longer has the big bats of the Angels' line-up to knock him in. If you miss out on some of the power that resides at the hot corner, take Figgins and address power at another position. After stops in Atlanta and Boston, the light-hitting

### **Kotchman**

is back at home in the AL West. He won't provide much fantasy value, but if you need some average help in deeper leagues, he's your man.

### **Jose Lopez**

represents the next tier of second baseman. He hit 25 HR last season, and with Figgins and Ichiro getting base in front of him, he should improve on his career high 96 RBI from 2009. If you miss out on the elite talent at the position (Utey, Kinsler, Philips), Lopez can be had at a better value than the likes of Hill and Pedroia, while producing similar stat lines. The enigmatic

### **Milton Bradley**

has all the raw tools, but he's more loco than a night at *Senor Frog's*

. If Bradley can mirror his 2008 campaign in Texas, he'll be an excellent deep league sleeper. Keep away from

### **Griffey**

, as he has the knees of an octogenarian at this point. Catcher

### **Rob Johnson**

is just a placeholder for youngster

### **Aaron Moore**

, who should take over signal calling duties sooner rather than later. Johnson has practically no value whatsoever, but Moore mashed the ball at 'A' ball and hit .319 last year at 'AA'. He'll most likely start the year in 'AAA', but any sort of success at that level should punch his ticket to the majors by mid-May. Keep an eye on his progression, as he may be a nice option at a notoriously weak position.

### **Gutierrez**

will provide some speed, but little else. And make a reminder to stay away from defensive specialist

### **Jack Wilson**

, a hitter so bad, the lowly Pirates didn't want him.

STARTING ROTATION

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1. Hernandez, Feliz RHP
2. Lee, Cliff LHP
3. Rowland-Smith, Ryan LHP
4. Snell, Ian RHP
5. Fister, Doug RHP
6. Petit, Yusmerio RHP
7. Olsen, Garrett LHP

It was a good off-season in the Pacific North-West. The acquisition of **Cliff Lee** transformed a pitching staff with an ace and four question marks, into the American League's most formidable one-two punch... followed by three question marks. Pitching at Safeco, with baseball's best defense behind him, will increase Lee's already sterling numbers. The only chink in his armor is his K/9 rate (7.04), although nothing to sneeze at, is no where near his dominance in WHIP and ERA. The scary thing about this Mariners staff is that Lee is its second-best option. Felix is still king in Seattle.

### **Hernandez**

had a dominant 2009. If it weren't for the God-like efforts of Zack Greinke, he would have been a unanimous choice for the Cy Young. The scary part? He's only 23, and the best is yet to come. Place 'The King' at the top of your AL draft boards -- yes, even ahead of Greinke. After this star-studded duo, it gets a bit dicey. If

### **Ian Snell**

can ever catch up to hype he once had in Pittsburgh, he could be a very serviceable late round flier. It's possible that Safeco inflates the stats of

### **Ryan Rowland-Smith,**

but it's tough putting trust a man with three names. And, although he may be the owner of a hilarious, porn-star like name,

### **Doug Fister**

probably shouldn't grace your fantasy rosters.

## BULLPEN

1. Aardsma, David RHP
2. League, Brandon RHP
3. Lowe, Mark RHP
4. Kelley, Shawn RHP
5. White, Sean RHP (biceps, should be ready for spring training)
6. Cordero, Chad RHP
7. Vargas, Jason LHP

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Although he'll be remembered in the annals of baseball history as having the most pirate friendly name, **David AARDsma**'s breakout 2009 should rank a close second. The league's most alphabetically endowed player saved 38 games last year, and the revamped line-up should only lead to more save opportunities. Acquired from Toronto in December, flame-throwing **Brandon League** should fit the role of set-up man perfectly. He has all the tools of a closer, but has a nasty habit of losing his control from appearance to appearance. If something happens to Aardsma, League should be first in line for saves. If your league counts holds,

### **Mark Lowe**

is a tremendous option. Hopefully his arm has some zip left in it after 75 appearances in 2009.

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