

MLB - 2010 Fantasy Baseball Toronto Blue Jays Team Preview

Written by Patrick Mayo

Tuesday, 02 February 2010 20:00 - Last Updated Tuesday, 02 February 2010 23:55

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: 75-87, 4th in AL East

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	266	798	209	548
AL	6	6	4	6
MLB	9	8	5	16
Pitching	BAA	ERA	HR	BB
Stats	.270	4.47	181	551
AL	10	10	9	10
MLB	23	22	22	16

LINE-UP

1. Bautista, Jose LF
2. Hill, Aaron 2B
3. Lind, Adam DH
4. Wells, Vernon CF
5. Encarnacion, Edwin 3B
6. Snider, Travis RF
7. Overbay, Lyle 1B
8. Buck, John C
9. Gonzalez, Alex SS

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Adam Lind and **Aaron Hill** are the gems from this group. Lind had a breakout 2009, showing an ability to hit for average and power, which makes him a very valuable commodity. Expect Lind to fall anywhere from the late third to early sixth round -- there are a lot of mixed feelings on him. Some believe that Lind's .301-35-114 is a ceiling for his numbers, but at age 26, I find that hard to believe. Despite no line-up projection, Lind should improve on these numbers as he enters his prime. Because of the shallow talent pool that is second base, Hill is pretty hot commodity. If he could replicate his monstrous 2009 -- 36 HR, 108 RBI -- he'll be worth all the attention. Problem is, I just don't see that happening. His bread and butter are those power numbers, which frankly, he won't replicate. Without those numbers, he's essentially Jose Lopez. Not bad, but not worthy of a top-three round selection. Hill had never eclipsed 17 HR before 2009, so it's hard to believe that he can keep up this torrid pace. If he can get to 25 this year, it will be an accomplishment. There are safer second basemen out there -- take one of them instead (or wait and take Jose Lopez in the 9th). Now, after those two dynamos, things get a bit dicey north of the boarder. If there's going to be a breakout candidate from this crew of flunkies, expect it to be

Travis Snider. Although reports out of the Jays' camp say that Snider could start the year in AAA, I don't buy it. He's a future superstar, and 2010 will be the perfect opportunity to collect some at-bats -- the Jays are going to be terrible, so what's the difference? I expect this organizational noise is to provide Snider with proper motivation. He'll be there on opening day. If T-Snider can have a breakout sophomore campaign, look for him to be around 20 HR, 85 RBI, .285 and that can be tolerated from a late round flier. If you want to take a real gamble in the last rounds, you could do worse than

Vernon Wells

. Wells, of the league's worst contract, has a guaranteed spot in the middle of the line-up, and any sort of bounce-back this year will make it a good pick. Being a loyal Blue Jay follower, I have been witness to the deterioration of Wells over the past three seasons. If you want a sure bet of who's on that mysterious list of players who did steroids in the early part of the decade, Wells is your man. Every year since MLB started cracking down on steroids, Wells' numbers have gone down dramatically -- seems like a strange decline from someone supposed to be in his prime. Wells has basically dropped off the fantasy radar this season, with due cause, but a minor comeback into the 20 HR, 80 RBI, .275, 20 SB range isn't out of the question. Unless you're in deep AL-only leagues, stay away from the rest of the line-up. If the hulking

Randy Ruiz

can replace

Lyle Overbay

at first base sometime this season, he could slug 25 HR, but he'll start the year in a bench role. To improve from a 2009 where he hit .225 in a Jays' uniform,

Edwin Encarnacion

spent New-Years trying attempting a Freddy Kruger style makeover which left him with 2nd degree burns --

[reenacted here](#)

by this senseless gentleman -- not the 2010 explosion Encarnacion was looking for.

STARTING ROTATION

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1. Marcum, Shawn RHP
2. Romero, Ricky LHP
3. Morrow, Brendon RHP
4. Rzepczynski, Mark LHP
5. Richmond, Scott RHP
6. Purcey, David LHP
7. Cecil, Brett LHP
8. Tallet, Brian LHP
9. Mills, Brad LHP
10. Drabek, Kyle RHP

Toronto's 2009 starting rotation had more patch work than a first year philosophy prof's dapper tweed jacket. The Jays had 12 different pitchers make two or more starts last season because of the slew of injuries they incurred. The good news is that it gave us a look at the future of the Jays' pitching. The bad news is this future has a distinct *Judge Dredd* feel to it. I don't think anyone wants to reside in an inhabitable world where Sly Stallone delivers his own brand of hard-to-understand justice. Plus, a future where Rob Schneider is still alive is just not worth living in. Losing Roy Halladay didn't exactly remedy the problem either. Hopefully, the return of

Shawn Marcum

is a success. Before undergoing Tommy John surgery in 2008, Marcum was one of fantasy's most underrated pitchers. He'll deliver excellent ratios and around a 7 k/9. He'll go forgotten in most drafts, but savvy drafters should gamble on him, as he could be a huge surprise in 2010.

Ricky Romero

faded down the stretch in 2009, as most rookies do, but he does possess the raw skills to make him an impact player. I like Romero as a back-end-of-the-rotation guy in deeper leagues, but if he can't put it all together on a consistent basis, he'll be useless. In 10-12 team formats, keep him off your draft lists and place him on the watch list to start the season. Make him prove he can do it first. In an overlooked off-season deal, Toronto shipped Brandon League to the Pacific North-West for the services of the flame throwing

Brandon Morrow

. Despite some reports, Morrow will start the year in the rotation, which is great news for fantasy owners looking for a cheap source of pitching talent. Morrow has the talent which has been evident for years, but he can just never seem to keep himself out of the doctor's office -- possibly due to deficient apple intake. He's no sure thing, but I've always had a soft spot for any pitcher that just piles up strikeouts, and Morrow is definitely that guy (career 9.30 k/9). If he can get the rest of his game out of the gutter, he'll be a steal for both the Jays and shrewd fantasy owners. Don't expect to see the centerpiece of the Halladay deal,

Kyle Drabek

, in 2010, unless last year's bad voodoo carries over. The four and five spots should be an open competition in Spring Training. Ranking the rest in terms of fantasy value would go something like:

Cecil

,
Rzepczynski

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(Pronounced Zep-chin-ski),

Purcey,

Mills, Richmond,

and

Tallet.

Keep an eye on youngsters

Cecil

and

Rzepczynski --

they are not draftable, but definitely the only two of the group to weather an eye towards.

BULLPEN

1. Frasor, Jason RHP
2. Downs, Scott LHP
3. Carlson, Jesse LHP
4. Accardo, Jermey RHP
5. Camp, Shawn RHP
6. Janssen, Casey RHP
7. Hayhurst, Dirk RHP

Don't concern yourself too much with incumbent closer **Jason Frasor** come draft time. Despite being an effective reliever over his six seasons in Toronto, he always seems to falter when he must wear the "closer" name tag. The Jays will have a closer by carousel system in place -- which, for the record, is less capable than a closer by committee. Cito Gaston will likely ride the hot hand out of the 'pen, which could mean save opportunities for

Scott Downs

and

Jeremy Accardo

-- both have closing experience. Gun to my head (and taking the bullet isn't an option), I'd say Accardo ends the year as closer with Frasor and Downs either setting up or traded. Either way, if you want to avoid massive headaches, stay away from the situation. It's not the sort of situation where you stop and say,

["Damn. Now that's a situation"](#)

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