

Player Projections

Batters

Alex Cora (Second Base)

PA	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SO	BB	SB	CS	BA	OBP	SLG	OPS	3 Yr	Fld	F\$
304	34	70	15	3	3	26	36	20	2	1	.262	.324	.374	.698	-.044	A+	\$1

Cora is one of those rare players who can't hit for average, can't hit for power and can't draw walks. That makes him pretty useless in general on offense, but he plays solid defense at both middle infield positions. He can look okay at the plate for two- to three-week stretches, but he's strictly backup material.

Coco Crisp (Center Field)

PA	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SO	BB	SB	CS	BA	OBP	SLG	OPS	3 Yr	Fld	F\$
532	69	133	30	4	8	54	76	42	23	4	.280	.336	.410	.746	-.034	B	\$2

It seems strange that a player would produce two nearly identical seasons followed by two nearly identical seasons of a different caliber, but that's exactly what Crisp has done. His last two years in Cleveland, he had OBPs of .344 and .345 and SLGs of .446 and .465. His first two years in Boston, he had OBPs of .317 and .330 and SLGs of .385 and .382. For whatever reason, it's clear that Crisp is no longer the hitter he was those last two seasons with the Indians. He can hit .270, maybe .280, with a bunch of doubles and a handful of triples and homers, but he's not going to hit .300 with 15 homers again any time soon.

J.D. Drew (Right Field)

PA	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SO	BB	SB	CS	BA	OBP	SLG	OPS	3 Yr	Fld	F\$
514	67	117	29	4	12	57	89	75	3	2	.272	.380	.441	.821	-.032	C	\$3

Drew exhibits great patience at the plate, but he sometimes passes on quality pitches and drew the ire of Red Sox fans last year by striking out frequently in important situations. Still, he's always struck out a lot and he's rarely been as unproductive at the plate as he was in 2007. His power should bounce back at least somewhat in 2008.

Jacoby Ellsbury (Center Field)

PA	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SO	BB	SB	CS	BA	OBP	SLG	OPS	3 Yr	Fld	F\$
540	67	135	25	6	1	40	76	34	24	3	.274	.327	.355	.682	.001	C	\$5

For some reason, our projections really don't like Ellsbury. He's clearly not going to match the .903 OPS he posted in limited playing time last year, mostly because he's not going to hit .353. But he makes good contact, has blazing speed and showed power in the majors that he never really displayed in the minors. A conservative estimate for what he might do in his rookie season would probably be a .340 OBP and .400 SLG.

Eric Hinske (First Base)

PA	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SO	BB	SB	CS	BA	OBP	SLG	OPS	3 Yr	Fld	F\$
327	42	74	20	2	10	41	73	37	3	1	.261	.349	.452	.801	-.026	C	\$1

Hinske's fallen hard since his impressive rookie season. He still has a bit of power and some patience at the plate, but he rarely shows much ability to hit for a decent average any more. He is versatile; he's a solid fielder at all four corner positions.

Mike Lowell (Third Base)

PA	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SO	BB	SB	CS	BA	OBP	SLG	OPS	3 Yr	Fld	F\$
583	72	148	38	1	15	74	67	50	2	1	.284	.345	.447	.792	-.043	D	\$8

Lowell's 2007 season was a bit misleading because he actually displayed significantly less power than in 2006 if you take into account that his batting average was 40 points higher in 2007. If Lowell's batting average returns to a level more in line with the rest of his career, you can expect overall production closer to his 2006 level. Either way, it's clear now that either something was wrong with him in 2005 or he just had one of those fluky bad years.