

Title:

Major League Baseball - Pitchers You Can Bet On

Word Count:

1657

Summary:

It's the start of the MLB season and already some pitchers have come to the forefront. Who loo

Keywords:

Sports, Wagering, Wager, Betting, Bet, Gambling

Article Body:

It's the start of the MLB season and already some pitchers have come to the forefront. Who loo

In putting together this list of four pitchers who have a strong chance of winning every time

For our purposes, we are only interested in betting the money line. The reason for this is tha

Pitchers backed by top closers may not beat the spread, which makes wagering on the run line e

Jose Contreras (Chicago White Sox)

Contreras starts his fourth Major League season and is coming off his best year ever, where he

He has three strong pitches - 91- 95 mph fastball, a slider/cut fastball, and an elusive forkb

The question for this year was would the post-All Star break Contreras show up or the pre-All

The White Sox are scoring 5.9 runs per game and closer Bobby Jenks, who has given up 2 homers

On many other teams, Contreras would be a number one starter. With such an all-around tough st

Greg Maddux (Chicago Cubs)

Maddux has started his twenty-first MLB season in amazing fashion with a 4-0 record and a 0.99

Last season, Maddux seemed to lose some of his great stuff. He's always had fantastic location

Backing up Maddux is closer Ryan Dempster, who last season saved 33 games in 35 opportunities.

The Cubs offense has scored an average of 5.05 runs per game, which is plenty the way that Mad

Despite his losing season in 2005, Maddux started 35 games and pitched 225 innings. His health

Curt Schilling (Boston Red Sox)

In 2004, Curt Schilling came to Boston and helped the Red Sox do something they had not done s

That operation could have ended his career, and in 2005 it did look like he might be done with

The veteran pitcher is 4-0 with a 2.60 ERA and 31 SO in 34.2 innings. This is the best start o

In the role of closer, John Papelbon has been stellar, going 9 for 9 with an ERA of 0.00. In 1

Boston is in the bottom third of hitting in the majors, which is certainly not good news for S

In a way, a competitor like Schilling who has the support of a young closer like Papelbon does

In 2004, Schilling won 21 games while losing 6. If he can stay healthy, he should easily match  
In four of his first five seasons with the Astros, right-handed pitcher Roy Oswalt has proven  
After missing part of the season in 2003 due to injury, he came back strong in 2004, recording  
Oswalt works fast and commands his 92-96 mph fastball with aplomb. His curve, which tumbles in  
The Astros are third in the league in RBI and second in batting average, which means this cons  
During his fairly short career, fastball throwing closer Brad Lidge has been very good. Last s  
However, there is some concern with Lidge this season. He is 7 for 9 in save opportunities, gi  
Oswalt has had a tendency over the years to win twice as many games as he loses, making him a  
The four starters we've examined all have the potential to win 20 games this year. Before plac  
The best pitchers will usually get a decision in 25-30 of their starts, winning from 18-23 of  
Out of a top pitcher's approximately 35 starts, he will win somewhere around 20. That leaves t

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