

Scott White's 2014 Positional Tiers

Catcher

The Elite: Joe Mauer, Buster Posey, Carlos Santana

The Near Elite: Yadier Molina, Jonathan Lucroy, Wilin Rosario, Brian McCann

The Next Best Things: Salvador Perez, Matt Wieters, Evan Gattis, Wilson Ramos, Jason Castro, Yan Gomes

The Fallback Options: Travis d'Arnaud, Mike Zunino, Miguel Montero, Jarrod Saltalamacchia, A.J. Pierzynski, Devin Mesoraco

The Last Resorts: Dioner Navarro, Yasmani Grandal, Alex Avila, Russell Martin, Josmil Pinto

The Leftovers: Carlos Ruiz, John Jaso, A.J. Ellis, Wellington Castillo, Derek Norris, Chris Iannetta, Geovany Soto, Max Stassi, Jesus Montero, Stephen Vogt

First base

The Elite: Paul Goldschmidt, Joey Votto, Edwin Encarnacion, Chris Davis, Prince Fielder

The Near-Elite: Albert Pujols, Freddie Freeman, Buster Posey, Eric Hosmer, Carlos Santana, Allen Craig, David Ortiz*

The Next-Best Things: Mark Trumbo, Adrian Gonzalez, Anthony Rizzo, Jose Abreu, Matt Adams, Billy Butler*, Brandon Belt

The Fallback Options: Mark Teixeira, Victor Martinez*, Mike Napoli, Brandon Moss, Kendrys Morales

The Last Resorts: Nick Swisher, Corey Hart, Adam Dunn, Ike Davis, Ryan Howard, Chris Carter, Justin Morneau, Adam Lind

The Leftovers: Justin Smoak, Adam LaRoche, James Loney, Logan Morrison, Yonder Alonso, Lucas Duda, Jon Singleton, Darin Ruf, Mark Reynolds, Mitch Moreland, Garrett Jones, Mike Olt
***DH-only**

Second base

The Elite: Robinson Cano, Dustin Pedroia, Jason Kipnis, Matt Carpenter

The Near-Elite: Ian Kinsler, Martin Prado, Ben Zobrist

The Next-Best Things: Jedd Gyorko, Jose Altuve, Aaron Hill, Chase Utley, Brandon Phillips, Daniel Murphy, Brian Dozier

The Fallback Options: Jed Lowrie, Anthony Rendon, Kolten Wong

The Last Resorts: Howie Kendrick, Neil Walker, Jurickson Profar, Dustin Ackley, Omar Infante, Dan Uggla, Kelly Johnson

The Leftovers: Rickie Weeks, Nick Franklin, Scooter Gennett, Emilio Bonifacio, Marco Scutaro, Brian Roberts, Gordon Beckham, Jonathan Schoop, DJ Lemahieu, Alberto Callaspo, Jordy Mercer

Third base

The Unmatched: Miguel Cabrera

The Elite: David Wright, Adrian Beltre, Evan Longoria, Matt Carpenter, Josh Donaldson, Ryan Zimmerman

The Near-Elite: Martin Prado

The Next-Best Things: Kyle Seager, Pedro Alvarez, Manny Machado, Chase Headley

The Fallback Options: Pablo Sandoval, Aramis Ramirez, Xander Bogaerts, Brett Lawrie, Mike Moustakas

The Last Resorts: Will Middlebrooks, Nolan Arenado, David Freese, Todd Frazier, Chris Johnson, Matt Dominguez

The Leftovers: Cody Asche, Maikel Franco, Trevor Plouffe, Marcus Semien, Alberto Callaspo, Lonnie Chisenhall, Mark Reynolds, Matt Davidson

Shortstop

The Elite: Troy Tulowitzki, Hanley Ramirez

The Near-Elite: Jean Segura, Jose Reyes, Ian Desmond, Ben Zobrist

The Next-Best Things: Elvis Andrus, Everth Cabrera

The Fallback Options: Brad Miller, Andrelton Simmons, Jed Lowrie, Starlin Castro, J.J. Hardy

The Last Resorts: Asdrubal Cabrera, Alexei Ramirez, Jhonny Peralta, Jimmy Rollins, Erick Aybar, Derek Jeter, Stephen Drew, Chris Owings, Jonathan Villar, Dee Gordon

The Leftovers: Alcides Escobar, Javier Baez, Zack Cozart, Yunel Escobar, Rafael Furcal, Jordy Mercer

Outfield

The Unmatched: Mike Trout

The Elite: Andrew McCutchen, Jacoby Ellsbury, Carlos Gonzalez, Ryan Braun, Bryce Harper, Adam Jones, Jose Bautista, Giancarlo Stanton, Shin-Soo Choo, Carlos Gomez, Yasiel Puig

The Near-Elite: Justin Upton, Matt Holliday, Jay Bruce, Allen Craig, Hunter Pence, Alex Rios, Martin Prado, Jason Heyward, Domonic Brown, Wil Myers, Starling Marte, Jayson Werth, Ben Zobrist

The Next-Best Things: Mark Trumbo, Matt Kemp, Shane Victorino, Alex Gordon, Yoenis Cespedes, Billy Hamilton, Carlos Beltran, Josh Hamilton, Desmond Jennings, Evan Gattis, Coco Crisp

The Fallback Options: Leonys Martin, Khris Davis, Adam Eaton, Alfonso Soriano, Curtis Granderson, Michael Cuddyer, George Springer, Nelson Cruz, Brandon Moss, Austin Jackson, Christian Yelich, Kole Calhoun

The Last Resorts: Nick Swisher, Torii Hunter, Dexter Fowler, Norichika Aoki, Marlon Byrd, Will Venable, Brett Gardner, Nick Markakis, Michael Bourn, Carl Crawford, Michael Morse, Angel Pagan, Oswaldo Arcia, Chris Carter, Nick Castellanos, Alejandro De Aza

The Leftovers: Colby Rasmus, Josh Reddick, Ben Revere, Eric Young, Dustin Ackley, Michael Brantley, Avisail Garcia, Corey Dickerson, Daniel Nava, Kelly Johnson, Andre Ethier, Rajai Davis, Oscar Taveras, B.J. Upton, Denard Span, Gerardo Parra, Melky Cabrera, Josh Willingham, Marcell Ozuna, Peter Bourjos, Carlos Quentin, Grady Sizemore, Lucas Duda, Jackie Bradley, Byron Buxton, Raul Ibanez, Nate Schierholtz, Chris Young, Junior Lake, Ryan Ludwick, Matt Joyce, Garrett Jones

Starting pitcher

The Elite: Clayton Kershaw, Yu Darvish, Max Scherzer, Adam Wainwright, Felix Hernandez, Cliff Lee, Justin Verlander, Jose Fernandez, Stephen Strasburg, Madison Bumgarner, Chris Sale

The Near-Elite: David Price, Matt Cain, James Shields, Zack Greinke, Anibal Sanchez

The Next-Best Things: Jordan Zimmermann, Homer Bailey, Gio Gonzalez, Alex Cobb, Jered Weaver, Julio Teheran, Mat Latos, Gerrit Cole, Michael Wacha, Shelby Miller, Masahiro Tanaka, Tony Cingrani, Matt Moore, Cole Hamels, Mike Minor, Hisashi Iwakuma

The Fallback Options: Francisco Liriano, Sonny Gray, Jon Lester, Marco Estrada, Johnny Cueto, Zack Wheeler, Justin Masterson, Danny Salazar, Ubaldo Jimenez, Jeff Samardzija, Andrew Cashner, Lance Lynn, Clay Buchholz, Hyun-Jin Ryu, C.J. Wilson, Chris Tillman

The Last Resorts: R.A. Dickey, Scott Kazmir, Hiroki Kuroda, CC Sabathia, Tim Lincecum, A.J. Burnett, Doug Fister, Chris Archer, Alex Wood*, Corey Kluber, Ervin Santana, Yordano Ventura, Taijuan Walker, John Lackey, Matt Garza, Yovani Gallardo, Jake Peavy, Drew Smyly*, Dan Straily, Jose Quintana, Michael Pineda, Dan Haren, Tyson Ross*, Ivan Nova

Strictly Late-Rounders: Tanner Scheppers*, Hector Santiago*, Martin Perez, Kyle Lohse, Wade Miley, Travis Wood, Dillon Gee, A.J. Griffin, Brandon Morrow, Charlie Morton, Bartolo Colon, Tim Hudson, Jonathon Niese

The Leftovers: Ricky Nolasco, Mike Leake, Tyler Skaggs, Felix Doubront, Wily Peralta, Erik Johnson, Rick Porcello, James Paxton, Jake Odorizzi, Bronson Arroyo, Jarrod Cosart, Josh Johnson, Jhoulys Chacin, Archie Bradley, Ian Kennedy, Garrett Richards*, Brett Anderson*, Jason Vargas, Nate Eovaldi, Tanner Roark, Joe Kelly*, Carlos Martinez*, Kevin Gausman*, Robbie Ross*, Noah Syndergaard, Jameson Taillon, Drew Hutchison, Brad Peacock, Josh Beckett, Mark Buehrle, Scott Feldman, Miguel Gonzalez, Miguel Alfredo Gonzalez, Chad Billingsley, Derek Holland, Henderson Alvarez, Brandon Workman*, David Phelps*, Trevor Cahill, Wei-Yin Chen, Tommy Milone, Matt Harrison, Danny Duffy, Tyler Thornburg, Bruce Chen*
***RP-eligible**

Relief pitcher

The Elite: Craig Kimbrel, Greg Holland, Kenley Jansen

The Near-Elite: Koji Uehara, Trevor Rosenthal

The Next-Best Things: Joe Nathan, Jason Grilli, Sergio Romo, Glen Perkins, David Robertson, Ernesto Frieri

The Fallback Options: Jonathan Papelbon, Grant Balfour, Addison Reed, Rafael Soriano, Steve Cishek, Jim Johnson

The Last Resorts: Joakim Soria, Casey Janssen, Fernando Rodney, John Axford, Huston Street, Jim Henderson, Nate Jones, Tommy Hunter, Bobby Parnell, Jose Veras

On the Horizon: Aroldis Chapman, Rex Brothers, LaTroy Hawkins, J.J. Hoover, Jesse Crain, Josh Fields, Chad Qualls, Jonathan Broxton, Matt Albers