

Arizona Diamondbacks

When Kevin Towers assumed the position of Diamondbacks general manager in the final days of the 2010 season, the job seemed to promise a fair share of impending punishment. Towers mentioned two goals: cutting down on the team's historically high strikeout rate and rebuilding its historically broken bullpen. If he also aimed to finish first in the NL West, he wisely left that intention unstated.

Before Towers took over, the number of teams that had managed to follow a last-place finish with a first-place finish in the following season during the six-division era that dawned in 1994 could have been counted on Antonio Alfonseca's six-fingered hand; a standard complement of fingers could have accommodated them if you excluded the 2006 D-Backs, who tied for last in the West before their 2007 turnaround, and Mordecai Brown could have handled the trio that hadn't finished last in four-team divisions. Only three additional teams pulled off the single-season turnaround during the four-division period of 1969-93, and none of those completed the feat before 1991. Not surprisingly, in light of the rarity of such reversals, the Diamondbacks weren't a popular preseason pick to unseat the reigning World Series champion Giants and claim the NL West title.

With such lofty ambitions likely buried deep in the back of his mind, Towers set about improving the weaknesses he'd targeted after taking over. The 2010 club he'd inherited had struck out more frequently than any team had before, going down swinging or looking in just under a quarter of its plate appearances. To some extent, the situation resolved itself. Chris Snyder had already been shipped to Pittsburgh at the trading deadline, and Towers allowed Adam LaRoche to leave as a free agent, which subtracted two strikeout-prone bats from the roster. He toyed with selling low on Justin Upton

but refrained when he couldn't secure a suitable package; the right fielder would go on to cut his strikeout rate significantly in a resurgent 2011 campaign. But Towers did send main offender Mark Reynolds to Baltimore in December.

As a result of those changes in personnel and performance, the Snakes slashed their strikeout rate by 17 percent. To be sure, strikeouts aren't the disgrace they're made out to be in Little League—in fact, they're highly correlated with patience and power, so one shouldn't read too much into the fact that the two teams with the fewest whiffs went to the World Series last season. Still, as we observed in our Arizona essay in *BP2011*, stacking a lineup with strikeout-prone bats has historically been an unsuccessful strategy, producing a compounding effect that contributes to volatile run-scoring. By no means were the Diamondbacks adept at making contact in Towers's first full

season at the helm—they still struck out at the fourth-highest rate in the NL—but their tendency toward strikeouts was no longer a serious handicap.

DIAMONDBACKS PROSPECTUS			
2011 W-L: 94-68, 1st in NL West			
Pythag	.546	8th	Ballpark: Chase Field (3-yr. PF: 106). Forcing pitchers to learn desert survival skills since 1998 2011: A balanced young team with a mediocre pen (at last!) climbs from worst to first 2012: If Upton gets some hitting help and the young pitchers come through, a repeat Action Items: Lock up Hudson and Kennedy, give younglings a shot, pray Goldschmidt hits 30 dingers
RS/G	4.51	9th	
RA/G	4.09	11th	
TAv	.256	18th	
TAv-P	.254	10th	
FIP	3.99	16th	
DER	.714	11th	
DL	571	6th	
B-Age	28.2	8th	
P-Age	27.0	5th	
Salary	\$55.9	25th	
M\$/MW	\$.945	2nd	

Table 1. Extreme Makeover, Baseball Edition: Single-Season Worst-to-First Team Turnarounds

Team	Year 1	Year 1 Finish	Year 2	Year 2 Finish
Braves	1990	6	1991	1
Twins	1990	7	1991	1
Phillies	1992	6	1993	1
Giants	1996	4	1997	1
Padres	1997	4	1998	1
Diamondbacks	1998	5	1999	1
Diamondbacks	2006	4	2007	1
Cubs	2006	6	2007	1
Rays	2007	5	2008	1
Diamondbacks	2010	5	2011	1

That left one liability lingering on Towers's offseason to-do list. The Diamondbacks bullpen posted an abysmal 5.99 FRA in 2010, by far the worst in baseball and .79 runs higher than the next-worst NL unit. Towers, who showed a knack for assembling some of baseball's best and most cost-efficient bullpens while in San Diego, seemed like the perfect man to reengineer Arizona's relief corps. The Reynolds trade helped to kill two team weaknesses with one transaction, since the D-Backs' bounty was hard-throwing right-hander David Hernandez, who became a consistent setup man for the Snakes, earning the second-highest Leverage Index among Arizona relievers. (Fellow righty reliever Kam Mickolio, who also came over in the deal, was less successful, though he struck out nearly 10 batters per nine innings at Triple-A Reno.)

In a slight departure from his usual pattern of low-cost acquisitions, Towers gambled on often-injured free-agent reliever J.J. Putz, whose health mostly held up in his first season as the club's closer. Towers also successfully filled the pen's lefty specialist slot with Rule 5 find Joe Paterson and made another trade to reinforce his relief corps at the deadline, sending extraneous pieces Brandon Allen and Jordan Norberto to Oakland for Brad Ziegler, one of the most dependable bullpen arms in baseball (albeit one somewhat limited by his susceptibility to southpaws). The net result of Towers's tinkering was an improvement in bullpen FRA of nearly a run and a half, giving the D-Backs a 4.69 mark that ranked 17th in baseball. The team's starters were similarly solid-but-unspectacular, ranking 17th overall at 4.41. Since Towers's bullpen investments paid off, he went back to the well over the winter, adding another off-brand former closer with injury issues in Takashi Saito and trading for another consistent Oakland reliever in Craig Breslow.

Still, despite Reynolds' aversion to contact and the bullpen help he brought back, there was a downside to running him out of town. In the process of striking out, walking, or homering in nearly half of his plate appearances for the Orioles, Reynolds recorded a .286 True Average, which would have been the best mark among non-Upton Diamondbacks with at least 150 PA. The Snakes scored the fourth-most runs in the NL, but the hitter-friendly confines of Chase Field helped camouflage some of their offensive inadequacies. Their .256 TAv revealed a slightly below-average offense that ranked in the middle of the NL pack. Reynolds' departure left the hot corner in the hands of Ryan Roberts, whose bat mostly went south after an excellent April, as well as a host of offensive zeroes like Melvin Mora, Sean Burroughs, Geoff Blum, and Cody Ransom. In addition, while retaining LaRoche would not have represented a solution, his departure nonetheless left a void at first base that the Diamondbacks spent most of the season trying to fill with subpar bats. Paul Goldschmidt's promotion in August brought some stability to the cold

corner, though it's not clear whether his ceiling is high enough to admit him to the upper echelons of the position.

Miguel Montero and Gerardo Parra are coming off excellent seasons, and Chris Young and Stephen Drew can be counted on to contribute if healthy, but aside from Upton, the lineup features very little star power, and significant uncertainty remains on the infield corners and at second base, where the Diamondbacks are desperately hoping to get more of the good Aaron Hill they saw at the end of last season. Instead of shoring up one of their weaker positions, the Diamondbacks shot themselves in the foot in December by signing free-agent Jason Kubel to a two-year deal, which relegated the younger, cheaper, and more productive Parra to a fourth-outfielder role. Aside from the erstwhile left fielder, little assistance can be expected from the bench—it's fair to wonder whether any team really needs Blum, John McDonald, or Willie Bloomquist, let alone all three of them, but the Diamondbacks acted quickly to corner the market on offensively inept utility men.

In short, the Diamondbacks had a mediocre offense and a run-of-the-mill rotation and relief corps, and unlike the 2008 Rays, the last team to leapfrog their divisional opponents in a single season, their defense also placed in the middle of the pack, ranking 11th with a 0.714 defensive efficiency. The lone standout aspect of their attack, the third-best baserunning performance in the NL, was worth less than a win. So what made them so good? The uncomfortable truth for Arizona fans is that despite their 94 wins, the Diamondbacks *weren't* particularly good—surprisingly successful, certainly, especially in light of their shedding a quarter of their payroll and spending less than all but two other NL teams, but still something well short of the dominant performers that their record suggests they were.

Arizona's improbable playoff appearance was in part the product of a weak division and a large helping of luck. The Diamondbacks outplayed their third-order winning percentage—a metric based on underlying statistics and adjusted for quality of opponents—by 10 1/2 games, the biggest margin in baseball. The D-Backs finished with an eight-game cushion in the NL West, and that's the only performance that counts in determining which teams get tickets to October. But in the third-order standings, they beat out the Giants by only one game and actually finished behind the Dodgers, which should temper our expectations for this season.

The Diamondbacks went 28-16 in one-run games, giving them the best winning percentage of any team in those contests, which often hinge as heavily on luck as they do on skill, though an improved bullpen didn't hurt. They also benefited from another factor largely determined by chance: good health. The Diamondbacks suffered the fewest injuries and days lost to injury of any NL team. According to BP injury guru Corey Dawkins, they surrendered only an estimated

2.0 WARP to the DL and day-to-day ailments—half as much as any other team in their division—with Drew’s ankle fracture accounting for the majority of the damage. Even if the Diamondbacks medical staff deserves much of the credit, the Snakes can expect more aches and pains to plague them in 2012.

Of course, none of that means there isn’t plenty of hope on Arizona’s horizon, as the team’s formerly fallow farm system has been rebuilt by a combination of fruitful trades orchestrated by former interim GM Jerry DiPoto, astute drafting by former scouting director Tom Allison, who was let go after Towers came to town, and—at least in 2011—the same sort of good health in the bush leagues that the Snakes enjoyed in the bigs. The Diamondbacks organization boasts perhaps the best collection of young pitching talent in baseball. In addition to the 27-year-old Ian Kennedy, who finished fourth in the Cy Young voting after leading the league in wins and winning percentage; the soon-to-be 25-year-old Dan Hudson, who hurled over 200 innings with a strikeout-to-walk ratio well over 3; and 26-year-old Josh Collmenter, who finished fifth in the Rookie of the Year voting but might not have the stuff to sustain his success, the team possesses unparalleled pitching riches in the minor leagues.

Even with former first-rounder Jarrod Parker shipped off to Oakland—in exchange for Trevor Cahill, a more established pitcher only six months his senior—it’s easy to make the case that the D-Backs have five or six minor-league arms more promising than their best position player prospect. Trevor Bauer, the third-overall pick in last year’s amateur draft, could contend for a rotation spot as soon as this spring. Tyler Skaggs, whom the Diamondbacks acquired in the 2010 Dan Haren trade, might be in the big leagues by September. Archie Bradley, yet another 2011 first-rounder, is behind those two but possesses the same top-of-the-rotation talent. And a few other arms of varying abilities figure to make strong cases for the middle or end of the rotation in the next few seasons. Given that profusion of young pitching, it’s not difficult to envision the Snakes’ best starter last season being their fourth- or fifth-best by 2013, although as always the TNSTAAPP principle applies.

It is important to note that the Diamondbacks feature a fly-ball staff; 30.1 percent of their batted balls allowed were hit in the air last season, the highest rate in baseball. Although Cahill keeps the ball on the ground and Wade Miley might do the same, none of Arizona’s up-and-coming arms is a budding Brad Ziegler in the grounder department,

so that percentage might not see a substantial change. In one sense, that tendency works against the Snakes, since fly balls travel farther in Arizona’s dry air; Chase Field’s home run factor ranks sixth-highest among major-league parks. But the danger is diminished somewhat by an outfield that in 2011 featured three players capable of playing center field in Young, Parra, and Upton. Thanks to that trio’s efforts in tracking down balls that might have found gaps or corners on teams with less rangy players in the pastures, the Diamondbacks allowed the third-lowest park-adjusted slugging percentage on balls in play in the NL last season, though they’ll have trouble repeating that performance with Kubel displacing Parra.

The Diamondbacks franchise has been unstable and prone to wild swings in the standings since its inception, perhaps appropriate for one that came of age so quickly and with so few growing pains. After suffering only a single season of the expansion-team blues, the Snakes spent heavily on free agents such as Randy Johnson, Steve Finley, and Todd Stottlemyre to go along with their highly paid veterans already in place, Matt Williams and Jay Bell, winning 100 games and pulling off their first worst-to-first reversal. That all-out veteran effort culminated in a 2001 World Series victory and gave the D-Backs the distinction of being the quickest team to a title, but that aging club soon ran out of steam, sending Arizona back to the cellar (and nearly halving the ’99 team’s win total) by 2004. The 2007 team arose from the ashes with a new core, but that core has had a bumpy ride, alternating between first- and last-place finishes of its own.

The signings of Towers and skipper Kirk Gibson to respective three-year extensions with two club options give the team one sort of stability. Still, the Diamondbacks are in an unusual spot in that they have few gaping holes in which to plug in players for easy improvements, but even fewer players capable of producing more than three or four wins above replacement, a state of affairs that hampers both their upside and their flexibility. The organization’s current crop of pitching prospects should produce more stars, but impact position players will be harder to come by for the foreseeable future. Although experience suggests that a team can never have too much pitching, a rotation can hold only so many arms; once the Diamondbacks determine which ones they think will pan out, they’ll have to be proactive in selling off the surplus in exchange for offensive talent from other teams, lest an imbalanced roster limit their capacity to keep surprising us with success.

HITTERS

Henry Blanco

C

Born: 8/29/1971 Age: 40
 Bats: R Throws: R Height: 6' 0" Weight: 170
 Breakout: 3% Improve: 16% Collapse: 8%
 Attrition: 23% MLB: 48%
Comparables:
 Carlton Fisk, Greg Myers, Birdie Tebbetts

YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	PA	R	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	AVG_OBP_SLG	TAv	BABIP	BRR	FRAA	WARP
2009	SDN	MLB	37	232	21	12	0	6	16	26	50	0	0	.235/.320/.382	.251	.282	-1.1	-1.3	0.7
2010	NYN	MLB	38	144	10	5	0	2	8	11	26	1	0	.215/.271/.300	.217	.248	-1.1	0.1	0.1
2011	ARI	MLB	39	112	12	3	1	8	12	12	21	0	1	.250/.330/.540	.290	.239	-0.1	-0.6	0.9
2012	ARI	MLB	40	250	26	10	1	6	25	19	53	1	0	.229/.290/.359	.232	.268	0	C-2	0.8

Blanco hit so well last year that he was almost forced to resign in disgrace from the International Brotherhood of Backup Catchers, but ultimately the first-time offender was forgiven his delusions of grandeur and allowed to keep his membership card on the basis of his unimpeachable record of poor hitting. Chase Field may have had something to do with his erupting for a home run every 12.5 at-bats after hitting one every 41.1 at-bats over his first 13 seasons. He hit .313/.400/.792 with six of his homers at home, while on the road he hit like his old self. The D-Backs brought him back for an encore. Even if—okay, better make that when—his bat returns to its old ways, Arizona can count on his strong arm: he threw out 11 of 24 attempted basestealers (45.8 percent) last season.

Willie Bloomquist

SS

Born: 11/27/1977 Age: 34
 Bats: R Throws: R Height: 6' 0" Weight: 185
 Breakout: 2% Improve: 23% Collapse: 11%
 Attrition: 30% MLB: 81%
Comparables:
 Adam Everett, Alvin Dark, Edgar Renteria

YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	PA	R	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	AVG_OBP_SLG	TAv	BABIP	BRR	FRAA	WARP
2009	KCA	MLB	31	468	52	11	8	4	29	27	73	25	6	.265/.308/.355	.236	.309	2.5	0.4	0.4
2010	CIN	MLB	32	18	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	.294/.333/.294	.221	.357	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1
2010	KCA	MLB	32	181	31	10	1	3	17	8	25	8	5	.265/.296/.388	.240	.294	-0.3	-0.9	0.1
2011	ARI	MLB	33	381	44	10	2	4	26	23	51	20	10	.266/.317/.340	.234	.300	0.3	-3.3	-0.1
2012	ARI	MLB	34	322	34	10	3	3	28	20	54	17	7	.261/.310/.345	.235	.304	-0.8	SS-2, LF 0	0.2

Sabermetrician Tom Tango has proposed “Wins Above Willie” as a fitting name for a total-value statistic, and Bloomquist once again showed why last season. His embodiment of a concept that critics say isn't real makes him more valuable as a teaching tool than a player—after a decade in the majors, he's accumulated just 1.0 WARP, and as he heads into his age-34 season, there is plenty of time for his decline phase to erase even that modest sum. Bloomquist endeared himself to Arizona fans with a scrappy .306 average in April but hit just .257/.315/.323 after returning from a hamstring strain suffered late that month. Aside from his forgettable performance, Bloomquist's calling card is his flexibility in the field (which boils down to an ability to be bad at a multitude of positions), but Stephen Drew's injury limited Bloomquist to just three positions in 2011, including a mere one game at second base, since his dubious services were often required at shortstop. One thing Bloomquist has always been able to do is steal at a high rate of success, but even that skill deserted him last season. Nonetheless, he re-signed for two seasons, which he'll spend battling John McDonald for backup at-bats.

Geoff Blum

3B

Born: 4/26/1973 Age: 39
 Bats: B Throws: R Height: 6' 4" Weight: 193
 Breakout: 0% Improve: 19% Collapse: 12%
 Attrition: 25% MLB: 53%
Comparables:
 Todd Zeile, Melvin Mora, Cal Ripken Jr.

YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	PA	R	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	AVG_OBP_SLG	TAv	BABIP	BRR	FRAA	WARP
2009	HOU	MLB	36	427	34	14	1	10	49	33	61	0	1	.247/.314/.367	.241	.266	-1.1	-9.3	-0.8
2010	HOU	MLB	37	218	22	10	1	2	22	15	33	0	0	.267/.321/.356	.243	.311	2.1	0.1	0.2
2011	ARI	MLB	38	55	8	3	0	2	10	5	9	0	0	.224/.309/.408	.226	.237	0.3	0.3	0.0
2012	ARI	MLB	39	250	26	11	1	5	24	17	41	0	0	.236/.293/.356	.232	.265	-0.1	3B 1, SS -1	0.4

Blum and Melvin Mora spent the season vying to be Arizona's least productive 38-year-old third baseman. Mora edged out Blum, -0.6 to 0.0 WARP, but it wasn't a fair fight: Even though Mora was released in late June, he had more opportunities to make his case. Blum did the team a favor by hurting his knee in spring training, which allowed Ryan Roberts to claim the starting job. The knee eventually required surgery that delayed Blum's debut until mid-July, and seven games later, he broke his right pinkie while fielding a ground ball and disappeared till September. Blum might have done his best work for the Diamondbacks while he was on the DL, but he got the last laugh: Unlike Mora, he'll be back for another season of replacement-level play.

Bobby Borcherding

3B

Born: 10/25/1990 Age: 21
 Bats: B Throws: R Height: 6' 4" Weight: 200
 Breakout: 0% Improve: 6% Collapse: 5%
 Attrition: 12% MLB: 19%
Comparables:
 Chris Marrero, Tony Horton, Alberto Odreman

YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	PA	R	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	AVG_OBP_SLG	TAv	BABIP	BRR	FRAA	WARP
2009	MSO	RK	18	93	10	8	1	2	11	5	27	0	0	.241/.290/.425	.301	.328	-0.8	-6	0.1
2010	SBN	A	19	588	74	31	2	15	74	54	128	1	1	.270/.343/.423	.278	.331	-3.6	-16	0.6
2011	VIS	A+	20	590	80	29	3	24	92	49	162	4	1	.267/.332/.469	.284	.337	-0.2	-6.3	2.3
2012	ARI	MLB	21	250	24	10	1	7	26	12	76	0	0	.213/.253/.352	.215	.277	0	3B -7, 1B -2	-0.7

Borchering is still young for his league, but he's old enough to know the truth: Prospects at his position don't often post batting averages in the mid-.200s in the minors and live to tell the tale. Last season, the 2009 first-rounder went from being a third baseman who was often referred to as a "future first base type" to a player who actually saw more time at first than at third. That ratio is likely to grow even more lopsided in favor of first in the coming seasons, since Borchering lacks the quickness and strong arm that come in handy at the hot corner. The switch-hitter has a sweet swing and plenty of power, but unless he can make more contact or start walking twice as often, he won't unseat Paul Goldschmidt or distinguish himself from the legion of other corner infielders en route to Phoenix.

Sean Burroughs 3B

Born: 9/12/1980 Age: 31
Bats: L Throws: R Height: 6' 3" Weight: 200
Breakout: 2% Improve: 20% Collapse: 11%
Attrition: 21% MLB: 69%

Comparables:

Joe Randa, Frank Malzone, Terry Tiffe

YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	PA	R	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	AVG_OBP_SLG	TAv	BABIP	BRR	FRAA	WARP
2011	RNO	AAA	30	110	19	11	2	2	25	7	8	0	2	.412/.450/.618	.329	.435	-1	0.5	1.0
2011	ARI	MLB	30	115	8	4	0	1	8	3	15	1	0	.273/.289/.336	.205	.305	-0.4	0	-0.3
2012	MIN	MLB	31	250	28	13	2	3	26	12	34	2	1	.276/.313/.388	.250	.307	-0.2	3B 0	1.3

Research has shown that players tend to perform worse as pinch-hitters than they do as starters. Burroughs actually hit slightly better in his long-shot return to baseball when he was pinch-hitting than he did while playing third, but neither line resembled anything useful or

evoked his small-sample tear at Triple-A. The lefty walked less frequently than Yuniesky Betancourt and had as many extra-base hits as Dontrelle Willis delivered in 81 fewer plate appearances. The former "can't-miss" prospect long since went wide of the major-league mark, but at least, after having spent three years away from the game, doing, in his own words, "nothing, really," he got one last hurrah.

Matt Davidson 3B

Born: 3/26/1991 Age: 21
Bats: R Throws: R Height: 6' 4" Weight: 210
Breakout: 0% Improve: 3% Collapse: 3%
Attrition: 7% MLB: 11%

Comparables:

Thomas Neal, Jonathan Waltenbury, Jaime Ortiz

YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	PA	R	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	AVG_OBP_SLG	TAv	BABIP	BRR	FRAA	WARP
2009	YAK	A-	18	299	29	15	0	2	28	21	75	0	2	.241/.311/.319	.227	.325	0.4	8.1	0.6
2010	SBN	A	19	475	58	35	3	16	79	43	109	0	2	.289/.374/.504	.304	.359	-2.4	0.4	2.8
2010	VIS	A+	19	84	6	1	0	2	11	12	25	0	0	.169/.298/.268	.204	.227	-1.2	0.6	-0.4
2011	VIS	A+	20	606	93	39	1	20	106	52	147	0	1	.277/.348/.465	.291	.340	-1.7	-3.5	3.0
2012	ARI	MLB	21	250	23	11	0	5	23	14	74	0	0	.206/.261/.329	.211	.274	0	3B 1, 1B -1	-1.0

Davidson, a slightly better, slightly younger version of Bobby Borchering (who was selected 19 picks before him in the 2009 draft), experienced similar—albeit less severe—struggles to

make contact at High-A last season. After spending 2010 trading off at the hot corner in South Bend, both played 135 games for Visalia split between the infield corners and DH. Since they appeared at the same positions for the same team, scouts had ample opportunity to make an informed comparison between the two, and most came away liking Davidson better, both for his bat and for his better chance of sticking at third thanks to a superior fielding percentage and a stronger arm. How they do at Double-A could be the real decider.

Stephen Drew SS

Born: 3/16/1983 Age: 29
Bats: L Throws: R Height: 6' 2" Weight: 185
Breakout: 3% Improve: 29% Collapse: 7%
Attrition: 19% MLB: 94%

Comparables:

Jimmy Rollins, Brendan Harris, John Valentin

YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	PA	R	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	AVG_OBP_SLG	TAv	BABIP	BRR	FRAA	WARP
2009	ARI	MLB	26	595	71	29	12	12	65	49	87	5	1	.261/.320/.428	.257	.288	1.2	5.1	2.6
2010	ARI	MLB	27	633	83	33	12	15	61	62	108	10	5	.278/.352/.458	.288	.321	2.5	-2.2	4.4
2011	ARI	MLB	28	354	44	21	5	5	45	30	74	4	4	.252/.317/.396	.258	.313	1.4	-2.6	1.2
2012	ARI	MLB	29	388	48	21	6	9	49	31	67	4	2	.265/.327/.440	.270	.301	-0.3	SS -3	2.4

Drew left the D-Backs in the lurch when he broke his ankle sliding into home plate on July 20 (to add insult to injury, he was out), but his season was already well on the way to disappointment after an age-27 career year. It's time to accept that Drew will never put together the

monster season forecasted for him by scouts and statheads alike, but even reduced expectations leave room for a passable defender and an above-average hitter for whom roughly 10 other NL teams would gladly swap their shortstops. It would be a shame if Drew's early promise relegated him to the same land of the perpetually underappreciated where his big brother J.D. has been for the better part of a decade. October surgery for a sports hernia complicated his rehab from the ankle fracture and could put his status for Opening Day in doubt.

Adam Eaton **CF**
 Born: 12/6/1988 Age: 23
 Bats: L Throws: L Height: 5' 10" Weight: 180
 Breakout: 2% Improve: 40% Collapse: 9%
 Attrition: 22% MLB: 72%
Comparables:
 Ron Fairly, Oscar Gamble, Scott Lusader

YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	PA	R	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	AVG_OBP_SLG	TAv	BABIP	BRR	FRAA	WARP
2010	MSO	RK	21	282	48	14	4	7	37	35	44	20	8	.385/.504/.575	.386	.457	0.9	6.2	4.8
2011	VIS	A+	22	301	54	15	3	6	39	42	41	24	8	.332/.455/.492	.350	.379	4.4	2.8	4.8
2011	MOB	AA	22	255	31	7	4	4	28	30	35	10	6	.302/.409/.429	.312	.345	-3.5	3	2.3
2012	ARI	MLB	23	250	28	9	2	4	23	22	50	9	4	.250/.332/.362	.252	.302	-0.3	CF -1, RF 2	0.7

Eaton—not to be confused with the journeyman starter who went to his major-league grave a few years ago—has climbed quite a few prospect lists over the past two seasons by virtue of a .340/.456/.500 start to his pro career. As that line and his 5'9 frame suggest, he doesn't possess a lot of power, but he has an excellent eye and enough pop to keep pitchers honest. He walked more than he struck out at High-A last year, and after going Mobile at midseason, he continued to hit for a high average in the Arizona Fall League. With A.J. Pollock entrenched in center, Eaton switched to right in the Southern League. Since his glove profiles better in a corner, he has the makings of an excellent fourth outfielder or a scrappy second-division starter; a strong Triple-A season could vault him out of tweener territory to stay. Not bad for a 19th-round pick.

Paul Goldschmidt **1B**
 Born: 9/10/1987 Age: 24
 Bats: R Throws: R Height: 6' 4" Weight: 245
 Breakout: 3% Improve: 25% Collapse: 26%
 Attrition: 38% MLB: 83%
Comparables:
 Carlos Pena, Hee-Seop Choi, Chris Carter

YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	PA	R	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	AVG_OBP_SLG	TAv	BABIP	BRR	FRAA	WARP
2009	MSO	RK	21	331	51	27	3	18	62	36	74	4	3	.334/.414/.638	.355	.400	-1	2.8	3.7
2010	VIS	A+	22	599	102	42	3	35	108	57	161	5	1	.314/.390/.606	.336	.395	-2.5	-5.4	5.0
2011	MOB	AA	23	457	84	21	3	30	94	82	92	9	3	.306/.435/.626	.361	.331	4.6	4	6.3
2011	ARI	MLB	23	177	28	9	1	8	26	20	53	4	0	.250/.333/.474	.281	.323	1.4	-2.4	0.6
2012	ARI	MLB	24	268	34	12	1	13	37	27	78	2	1	.244/.323/.470	.277	.300	0	1B -12, CF 0	1.4

The Snakes didn't quite strike gold as the calendar turned to August, but they did strike Goldschmidt, which was almost as good given that Chase Field held more Latino voters in favor of SB 1070 than first basemen who could hit last season. At the time of his promotion, Goldschmidt led the minors with 30 homers and ranked second with 82 walks. Not only was he on the verge of matching the power numbers he put up in a full 2010 season, but his plate discipline had made a marked improvement, as evidenced by a K:BB ratio that had improved to 1.12 after two years over 2.00. That performance helped him repeat as the organization's Player of the Year and likely would have given way to further fireworks had he not bypassed Triple-A, but it didn't fully translate to the major-league level, where Goldschmidt proved highly susceptible to strikeouts. That wasn't enough to keep him from being the best of a bad first-base bunch, but it didn't ease concerns about his long swing. However, roughly half of his strikeouts came in the first third of his plate appearances, so he may already have made some adjustments.

Aaron Hill **2B**
 Born: 3/21/1982 Age: 30
 Bats: R Throws: R Height: 6' 0" Weight: 195
 Breakout: 1% Improve: 5% Collapse: 5%
 Attrition: 9% MLB: 87%
Comparables:
 Felix Mantilla, Orlando Hudson, Brandon Phillips

YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	PA	R	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	AVG_OBP_SLG	TAv	BABIP	BRR	FRAA	WARP
2009	TOR	MLB	27	734	103	37	0	36	108	42	98	6	2	.286/.330/.499	.288	.288	1.5	9.1	5.1
2010	TOR	MLB	28	580	70	22	0	26	68	41	85	2	2	.205/.271/.394	.241	.196	-0.2	4.2	0.9
2011	TOR	MLB	29	429	38	15	1	6	45	23	53	16	3	.225/.270/.313	.217	.242	-1.4	-5	-1.5
2011	ARI	MLB	29	142	23	12	2	2	16	12	19	5	4	.315/.386/.492	.298	.356	1.5	2.2	1.3
2012	ARI	MLB	30	539	63	29	2	18	67	34	83	15	6	.255/.307/.427	.260	.271	-0.4	2B 1	1.7

Hill has become something of a cipher after spending 2007-10 alternating seasons of roughly five wins with seasons in which he played near replacement level. That hot-and-cold pattern persisted into 2011, with a big improvement in 33 games after his August trade from Toronto. In this case, the classic "change of scenery" trade seemed to pay dividends, but the improvement was built upon an unsustainable BABIP. After Kevin Towers declined the infielder's \$8 million options for 2012 and 2013, he explained, "I don't want to get too crazy about six weeks. There's a reason [the Blue Jays] moved him." However, the upside proved too tantalizing to ignore, and Towers eventually inked him to a two-year deal for \$11 million. Judging by Hill's track record, it might not be long before his scenery changes again.

Jason Kubel **RF**
 Born: 5/25/1982 Age: 30
 Bats: L Throws: R Height: 6' 0" Weight: 190
 Breakout: 3% Improve: 37% Collapse: 3%
 Attrition: 15% MLB: 90%
Comparables:
 Terrmel Sledge, Johnny Callison, Matt Stairs

YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	PA	R	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	AVG_OBP_SLG	TAv	BABIP	BRR	FRAA	WARP
2009	MIN	MLB	27	578	73	35	2	28	103	56	106	1	1	.300/.369/.539	.311	.327	-0.6	1.3	3.9
2010	MIN	MLB	28	582	68	23	3	21	92	56	116	0	1	.249/.323/.427	.263	.280	-2.9	-1.8	0.4
2011	MIN	MLB	29	401	37	21	1	12	58	32	86	1	1	.273/.332/.434	.273	.326	-2	-2.2	0.8
2012	ARI	MLB	30	417	52	21	2	15	54	37	83	1	1	.265/.332/.453	.277	.302	-0.1	RF -0, LF -0	1.5

After an off 2010, Kubel got off to a great start—.310/.355/.465 through the end of May—that seemed like the opening act of another season like his stellar 2009. Unfortunately, a sprained left foot cost him all of June and most of July; he hit just .229/.304/.398 the rest of the way and missed the season's final two weeks after re-aggravating the injury. Kubel wound up with essentially the same rate stats as in 2010, albeit with a higher batting average due to a 46-point spike in BABIP and a slight dip in his walk rate. You'd think the combination of his down season and his limitations in the field, on the bases, and against lefties (.239/.313/.365 career, compared to .282/.342/.490 against righties) would have conspired to keep his price down, but the Diamondbacks gave him a guaranteed \$16 million over the next two seasons to replace a superior player—Gerardo Parra—in left.

John McDonald SS		YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	PA	R	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	AVG_OBP_SLG	TAv	BABIP	BRR	FRAA	WARP
Born: 9/24/1974 Age: 37		2009	TOR	MLB	34	156	18	7	0	4	13	1	18	0	2	.258/.271/.384	.236	.269	-1.4	0.4	-0.1
Bats: R Throws: R Height: 6' 0" Weight: 175		2010	TOR	MLB	35	163	27	9	2	6	23	6	26	2	1	.250/.273/.454	.256	.260	1.9	-0.4	0.7
Breakout: 0% Improve: 25% Collapse: 5%		2011	TOR	MLB	36	182	19	8	1	2	20	8	18	2	4	.250/.285/.345	.236	.267	0.8	4.6	0.8
Attrition: 30% MLB: 62%		2011	ARI	MLB	36	63	2	2	0	0	2	4	9	0	0	.169/.222/.203	.196	.200	-0.2	1.2	0.1
Comparables:		2012	ARI	MLB	37	250	24	12	1	3	24	9	38	4	3	.239/.271/.344	.217	.264	-0.9	SS 0, 3B 4	-0.5
Royce Clayton, Mike Bordick, Juan Castro																					

With Stephen Drew out for the season and Arizona in desperate need of a shortstop, Kevin Towers got McDonald thrown into the Aaron Hill deal in late August. Predictably, the archetypical good-field, no-hit infielder both fielded well and failed to hit in his 15 starts down the stretch. It's not often that a .169 average earns a player a multi-year deal, but the D-Backs like his leather enough to put up with his lumber for two more seasons. Say what you will about the imprecision of defensive statistics, but if McDonald were the second coming of Ozzie Smith, it would show up in the numbers. His 8.5 career FRAA—even after putting up a 4.6 last year—suggests that the 37-year-old is above-average at best, which might not be enough to make up for his absent offense.

Miguel Montero C		YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	PA	R	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	AVG_OBP_SLG	TAv	BABIP	BRR	FRAA	WARP
Born: 7/9/1983 Age: 28		2009	ARI	MLB	25	470	61	30	0	16	59	38	78	1	2	.294/.355/.478	.283	.327	-0.4	-2	2.8
Bats: L Throws: R Height: 6' 0" Weight: 197		2010	ARI	MLB	26	331	36	20	2	9	43	29	71	0	1	.266/.332/.438	.256	.318	-2.8	0.6	1.2
Breakout: 4% Improve: 22% Collapse: 8%		2011	ARI	MLB	27	553	65	36	1	18	86	47	97	1	1	.282/.351/.469	.279	.317	-2	2	3.8
Attrition: 34% MLB: 91%		2012	ARI	MLB	28	477	60	28	2	16	62	39	89	1	1	.269/.335/.455	.278	.303	-0.1	C 1	3.1
Comparables:																					
Dave Sax, Charlie O'Brien, Ryan Doumit																					

The D-Backs made Montero their catcher of the future when they traded Chris Snyder to the Pirates in 2010. They might not have gotten the best possible return—D.J. Carrasco, Ryan Church, and Bobby Crosby are all either out of the game already or rapidly approaching retirement—but in light of Snyder's injury issues last season, it looks like they backed the right backstop. According to WARP, Montero was a top-five catcher in 2011, his first All-Star campaign, and that's without giving him full credit for his defense. Arizona's catcher cupboard is bare behind Montero, who won't turn 29 until July. It's time to start talking extension.

Xavier Nady 1B		YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	PA	R	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	AVG_OBP_SLG	TAv	BABIP	BRR	FRAA	WARP
Born: 11/14/1978 Age: 33		2009	NYA	MLB	30	29	4	4	0	0	2	1	6	0	0	.286/.310/.429	.229	.364	0.6	-0.1	0.0
Bats: R Throws: R Height: 6' 6" Weight: 220		2010	CHN	MLB	31	347	33	13	0	6	33	17	85	0	0	.256/.306/.353	.230	.326	1.9	-2.7	-0.9
Breakout: 1% Improve: 22% Collapse: 5%		2011	ARI	MLB	32	223	26	11	0	4	35	10	46	2	0	.248/.287/.359	.239	.294	-0.3	-1.7	-0.4
Attrition: 19% MLB: 64%		2012	ARI	MLB	33	250	29	13	0	8	30	13	53	1	0	.266/.315/.424	.262	.313	0	1B-2, RF-1	0.9
Comparables:																					
Jorge Toca, Dmitri Young, Ben Broussard																					

Diamondbacks first basemen combined for a .264 TAv last season, the 26th-best mark in the majors. A number of subpar first-sackers bore some blame, but none more than Nady, who brought up the rear at -2.7 VORP. As has been the case throughout his career, Nady was at his worst against righties, but in 2011, his worst (.248/.282/.307) was even worse than usual. His season came to an end on August 12, when the Mets' Dillon Gee—who throws just hard enough to hurt someone—broke his left hand with a fastball. Nady had already begun to give way to Paul Goldschmidt, so the fateful pitch really just put him out of his misery. As a below-average batter with a below-average glove, Nady's already had a surprisingly long major-league leash.

Lyle Overbay **1B**

Born: 1/28/1977 Age: 35
 Bats: L Throws: L Height: 6' 3" Weight: 215
 Breakout: 2% Improve: 20% Collapse: 4%
 Attrition: 29% MLB: 75%

Comparables:
 Richie Hebner, Erubiel Durazo, Kevin Millar

YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	PA	R	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	AVG_OBP_SLG	TAv	BABIP	BRR	FRAA	WARP
2009	TOR	MLB	32	500	57	35	1	16	64	74	95	0	0	.265/.372/.466	.290	.305	-1.1	4.3	2.1
2010	TOR	MLB	33	607	75	37	2	20	67	67	131	1	0	.243/.329/.433	.273	.285	-2.1	-0.9	1.0
2011	ARI	MLB	34	49	3	4	0	1	10	6	11	1	0	.286/.388/.452	.284	.367	0.1	0.8	0.2
2011	PIT	MLB	34	391	40	17	1	8	37	36	77	1	1	.227/.300/.349	.232	.269	-1.5	-3	-0.9
2012	ARI	MLB	35	447	52	25	2	12	48	48	94	1	0	.239/.323/.398	.259	.283	-0.1	1B 0	0.6

Arizona signed Overbay in mid-August to be a lefty caddy for Goldschmidt. That was eight days after Overbay had been released by the Pirates to clear roster room for Derrek Lee. In Pittsburgh, Overbay's \$5 million salary and poor performance had earned him the moniker "Lyle Overpay." Generally, if you can't hit enough to hold on to your job with a perennial loser on the fringes of the playoff race, you won't be of much use to a frontrunner, but Overbay served the Snakes well enough in his brief time with the team to convince Towers to bring him back for more in 2012. You know how people say you really have to mash to be considered a first-base prospect? Overbay hit .342/.411/.531 in five minor-league seasons, and he's barely made the grade.

Chris Owings **SS**

Born: 8/12/1991 Age: 20
 Bats: R Throws: R Height: 5' 10" Weight: 175
 Breakout: 0% Improve: 4% Collapse: 1%
 Attrition: 5% MLB: 9%

Comparables:
 Garabez Rosa, Daniel Santana, Hector Gomez

YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	PA	R	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	AVG_OBP_SLG	TAv	BABIP	BRR	FRAA	WARP
2009	MSO	RK	17	111	20	5	1	2	10	3	25	3	0	.306/.324/.426	.300	.383	1.8	0.1	1.3
2010	SBN	A	18	271	39	19	2	5	28	9	50	1	3	.298/.325/.447	.272	.351	-0.2	2.7	1.8
2011	VIS	A+	19	555	67	29	6	11	50	15	130	10	4	.246/.274/.388	.239	.305	-1.2	12.6	2.0
2012	ARI	MLB	20	250	21	11	1	3	23	2	68	2	1	.213/.222/.310	.186	.275	-0.1	SS 11, LF -0	-1.6

Owings probably wasn't the best hitter with that surname in the Arizona organization last season—and the other Owings was a pitcher. Chris struck out in 23.4 percent of his plate appearances for Visalia—more often than any shortstop in the majors—and his 8.7 K:BB ratio was easily the worst among players with at least 500 PA in High-A (or Double-A or Triple-A, for that matter). In an even more disturbing development for a player whose future depends on his glove, Owings committed the most errors in the California League. He's still young for his level, but his struggles in the field could make him a second baseman down the road. Unfortunately for him, there are few roads for second basemen with sub-.300 OBPs that don't end in early retirement.

Gerardo Parra **LF**

Born: 5/6/1987 Age: 25
 Bats: L Throws: L Height: 6' 0" Weight: 197
 Breakout: 5% Improve: 36% Collapse: 2%
 Attrition: 15% MLB: 69%

Comparables:
 Andre Ethier, Keith Smith, Chris Pettit

YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	PA	R	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	AVG_OBP_SLG	TAv	BABIP	BRR	FRAA	WARP
2009	MOB	AA	22	130	23	3	1	3	12	22	13	7	4	.361/.469/.491	.340	.391	0	0.2	1.3
2009	ARI	MLB	22	491	59	21	8	5	60	25	89	5	7	.290/.324/.404	.242	.346	1.7	-3.6	-0.2
2010	ARI	MLB	23	393	31	19	6	3	30	23	76	1	0	.261/.308/.371	.234	.322	1.1	8	0.9
2011	ARI	MLB	24	493	55	20	8	8	46	43	82	15	1	.292/.357/.427	.275	.342	0.8	14.9	3.5
2012	ARI	MLB	25	448	54	21	7	7	52	30	81	8	3	.282/.334/.421	.265	.332	-0.1	LF 7, RF 0	1.3

Just as it seemed that Parra's top-prospect past would come to fourth-outfielder fruition, he put it all together. While he might be stretched in center field, both advanced metrics and Gold Glove voters agree that he's a standout in left. Parra's not all about range, though: He showed a strong arm as well. His offensive skills improved to the point that he's not solely reliant upon his defense to make him an everyday player, as improved plate discipline translated into gains in his walk rate and isolated power that put his overall performance at the plate slightly above the level of the average NL left fielder's. As if determined to demonstrate that there were no weak points to his game, he also stole 15 bases in 16 attempts. As he enters his age-25 season, he still has room to grow, but he's already one of the NL's most underappreciated players—even by his own team, which platooned him with Collin Cowgill down the stretch despite his contributions beyond the batter's box and reverse splits in the past two seasons, then signed Jason Kubel to replace him in December.

A.J. Pollock **CF**

Born: 12/5/1987 Age: 24
 Bats: R Throws: R Height: 6' 2" Weight: 205
 Breakout: 6% Improve: 33% Collapse: 8%
 Attrition: 28% MLB: 65%

Comparables:
 Dave Sappelt, Clay Timpner, Brandon Guyer

YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	PA	R	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	AVG_OBP_SLG	TAv	BABIP	BRR	FRAA	WARP
2009	SBN	A	21	277	36	12	3	3	22	16	36	10	4	.271/.320/.376	.273	.304	2.1	10.3	2.6
2011	MOB	AA	23	608	103	41	5	8	73	44	86	36	7	.307/.357/.444	.289	.346	1	-1.5	2.9
2012	ARI	MLB	24	250	26	12	1	3	25	11	47	9	2	.251/.287/.358	.230	.297	0.2	CF -6, RF 0	0.0

Look up "tweener" in the dictionary, and—well, okay, you probably won't find a picture of Pollock peering out at you, unless the editor had a large art budget and a keen awareness of Double-A prospects. Still, "tweener" is the term most often associated with Pollock, whose

defense in center is still seen as fringy and whose bat isn't quite big enough for a corner. He proved that he wouldn't be hampered by any lingering effects of the elbow fracture that cost him all of 2010, upping his average from its 2009 level and stealing bases at an 84 percent clip. However, unless the D-Backs think he projects to replace Chris Young in center, he might be of more value to them as trade bait.

Ryan Roberts **3B**
 Born: 9/19/1980 Age: 31
 Bats: R Throws: R Height: 6' 0" Weight: 190
 Breakout: 1% Improve: 45% Collapse: 8%
 Attrition: 10% MLB: 83%
Comparables:
 Rance Mulliniks, Graig Nettles, Robin Ventura

YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	PA	R	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	AVG_OBP_SLG	TAv	BABIP	BRR	FRAA	WARP
2009	ARI	MLB	28	351	41	17	2	7	25	40	55	7	3	.279/.367/.416	.269	.320	0.6	-3	0.8
2010	RNO	AAA	29	412	62	25	2	11	55	56	73	16	6	.265/.369/.444	.272	.307	1.3	5.1	1.9
2010	ARI	MLB	29	71	8	4	0	2	9	3	17	0	0	.197/.229/.348	.206	.229	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3
2011	ARI	MLB	30	555	86	25	2	19	65	66	98	18	9	.249/.341/.427	.277	.275	2.6	1.9	3.1
2012	ARI	MLB	31	474	56	22	3	12	51	52	92	13	5	.249/.335/.404	.264	.289	-0.4	3B -0, 2B 1	2.0

A mid-March injury to Geoff Blum gave Roberts a starting gig, and his April ensured that he'd keep it. Roberts hit .313/.413/.594 before the calendar turned to May but just .239/.329/.402 thereafter, essentially reproducing Blum's batting line in the oft-injured infielder's 55 trips to the plate. Of course, April counts, so the entirety of Roberts' uneven season was worth nearly three wins to Arizona. Now, the Diamondbacks need to determine which was the real Roberts: the April slugger or the Blum-level bat that showed up for the rest of the season. As an infield tweener who doesn't have the glove to play up the middle or the offense for a corner, he could find himself forced out by Blum, Willie Bloomquist, and John McDonald when they combine to form utility man Megatron.

Justin Upton **RF**
 Born: 8/25/1987 Age: 24
 Bats: R Throws: R Height: 6' 3" Weight: 205
 Breakout: 0% Improve: 25% Collapse: 3%
 Attrition: 31% MLB: 87%
Comparables:
 Gene Hiser, Carlos Quintana, Jayson Werth

YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	PA	R	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	AVG_OBP_SLG	TAv	BABIP	BRR	FRAA	WARP
2009	ARI	MLB	21	588	84	30	7	26	86	55	137	20	5	.300/.366/.532	.297	.360	-1.3	10.3	4.5
2010	ARI	MLB	22	571	73	27	3	17	69	64	152	18	8	.273/.356/.442	.275	.354	-0.8	2.6	1.8
2011	ARI	MLB	23	674	105	39	5	31	88	59	126	21	9	.289/.369/.529	.311	.319	2.3	4.3	5.2
2012	ARI	MLB	24	613	83	31	7	24	88	58	147	17	7	.276/.353/.493	.296	.333	-0.7	RF 3	3.4

After racking up 4.5 WARP at age 21 in 2009, Upton, whose scouting reports and draft position supported the stats, seemed assured of a smooth, Griffey-like rise to stardom. But he hit an unexpected speed bump in 2010, as his strikeout rate rose and his isolated power fell by over 25 percent, prompting the D-Backs to shop him around over the winter. Another season like that and Upton might have been viewed as a partial disappointment like his brother B.J. Instead, he bounced back and then some, hitting more homers while cutting down on his Ks—two trends that rarely occur in tandem. Not only that, but his play in the field earned him his first Fielding Bible Award. At age 24 and with a nearly five-win season under his belt, it's safe to assume he's off the market.

Chris Young **CF**
 Born: 9/5/1983 Age: 28
 Bats: R Throws: R Height: 6' 3" Weight: 180
 Breakout: 0% Improve: 41% Collapse: 1%
 Attrition: 7% MLB: 93%
Comparables:
 Carlos Beltran, Merv Rettenmund, Curtis Granderson

YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	PA	R	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	AVG_OBP_SLG	TAv	BABIP	BRR	FRAA	WARP
2009	RNO	AAA	25	63	17	5	1	3	9	9	13	2	2	.370/.460/.667	.350	.447	-0.3	-1.8	0.6
2009	ARI	MLB	25	501	54	28	4	15	42	59	133	11	4	.212/.311/.400	.243	.268	2.8	-5.5	0.2
2010	ARI	MLB	26	664	94	33	0	27	91	74	145	28	7	.257/.341/.452	.279	.296	2.7	4.7	4.1
2011	ARI	MLB	27	659	89	38	3	20	71	80	139	22	9	.236/.331/.420	.273	.275	5.3	-5.9	2.6
2012	ARI	MLB	28	620	76	33	4	23	80	62	145	19	7	.243/.322/.445	.270	.285	-0.3	CF -1	2.6

Is Young a good center fielder, a poor one, or one who fluctuates from year to year? His FRAA has alternated between positive and negative numbers in each of his six major-league seasons, but he was a Gold Glove finalist last season and routinely makes spectacular plays in center. He's also settled in as a comfortably above-average hitter, cutting down on his strikeouts in three straight seasons. Young hits for low averages, but it's not because of his Ks: Despite his speed, he's a low-BABIP hitter because of his tendency to get under the ball. The right-handed hitter has popped up 16.9 percent of his batted balls since 2009, by far the highest rate among players with at least 1500 plate appearances over that span. Young's speed makes him good at many things, but beating out infield flies isn't one of them.

PITCHERS

Craig Breslow

Born: 8/8/1980 Age: 31
 Bats: L Throws: L Height: 6' 2" Weight: 180
 Breakout: 8% Improve: 47% Collapse: 30%
 Attrition: 10% MLB: 92%

Comparables:

Dave Righetti, Sid Fernandez, Ken Dayley

YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	W	L	SV	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	EqBB9	EqSO9	GB%	BABIP	WHIP	ERA	FIP	FRA	WARP
2009	MIN	MLB	28	1	2	0	17	0	14 ¹	11	3	11	11	6.9	6.9	34%	.222	1.53	6.28	6.84	7.31	-0.2
2009	OAK	MLB	28	7	5	0	60	0	55 ¹	37	5	18	44	2.9	7.2	33%	.219	0.99	2.60	3.81	4.60	0.5
2010	OAK	MLB	29	4	4	5	75	0	74 ²	53	9	29	71	3.5	8.6	31%	.228	1.10	3.01	3.88	4.06	0.6
2011	OAK	MLB	30	0	2	0	67	0	59 ¹	69	4	21	44	3.2	6.7	40%	.348	1.52	3.79	3.62	4.48	0.3
2012	ARI	MLB	31	3	1	1	62	0	58 ²	50	6	21	48	3.2	7.3	40%	.287	1.22	3.68	3.97	4.00	0.8

Breslow, an independent league discovery during Towers' tenure in San Diego, has described himself as a "right-handed left-hander", by which he means that he's more effective against opposite-handed hitters, a contention borne out by his platoon splits. Last year the split was particularly extreme, as he held righties to a .263 TAv while allowing a lofty .348 figure to southpaws, but in most seasons it's freed his managers to use him against multiple batters. After 279 innings, his career FIP is over three quarters of a run higher than his 3.06 career ERA. What he'll be worth to the Diamondbacks, who acquired him in the Trevor Cahill deal, depends on whether he can continue to be a low-BABIP guy. One thing the cerebral Yale biochem major probably can't do is keep his home-run rate as low as it was last season: Even after curbing his fly-ball tendencies to some extent, he owns the 20th-highest fly-ball percentage among pitchers with at least 250 IP since 2008, which won't play as well in Chase Field as it did in the Coliseum.

Charles Brewer

Born: 4/7/1988 Age: 24
 Bats: R Throws: R Height: 6' 5" Weight: 205
 Breakout: 34% Improve: 61% Collapse: 17%
 Attrition: 18% MLB: 89%

Comparables:

Fernando Hernandez, Vicente Padilla, Homer Bailey

YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	W	L	SV	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	EqBB9	EqSO9	GB%	BABIP	WHIP	ERA	FIP	FRA	WARP
2009	MSO	RK	21	7	4	0	17	7	54 ²	55	5	18	71	2.5	10.0	51%	.299	1.06	2.47	3.78	4.58	2.2
2010	SBN	A	22	4	5	0	13	13	69	50	3	19	66	2.6	10.2	47%	.288	1.09	1.83	3.32	3.55	1.3
2010	VIS	A+	22	7	3	0	14	14	81 ²	71	5	13	73	1.7	8.3	50%	.306	1.09	2.97	3.45	4.29	0.9
2011	MOB	AA	23	1	1	0	11	11	52 ¹	51	2	22	53	3.3	8.3	45%	.316	1.28	2.58	3.15	3.90	1.0
2012	ARI	MLB	24	1	2	0	5	5	25 ²	25	3	10	17	3.6	6.1	45%	.304	1.39	4.81	4.57	5.22	0.0

The right-handed starter's stat line survived the dreaded Double-A jump intact, but his body didn't, as his season was interrupted first by a concussion and then by a line drive that broke his hand in June. Brewer made up some of those lost innings and worked on a cutter in the Arizona Fall League, and he could contend for a rotation spot at some point next season, but all the work ethic in the world might not help him overtake the better pitching prospects ahead of him on the organizational depth chart.

Trevor Cahill

Born: 3/1/1988 Age: 24
 Bats: R Throws: R Height: 6' 4" Weight: 210
 Breakout: 27% Improve: 52% Collapse: 20%
 Attrition: 11% MLB: 92%

Comparables:

Steve Hargan, Storm Davis, Milt Pappas

YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	W	L	SV	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	EqBB9	EqSO9	GB%	BABIP	WHIP	ERA	FIP	FRA	WARP
2009	OAK	MLB	21	10	13	0	32	32	178 ²	185	27	72	90	3.6	4.5	49%	.274	1.44	4.63	5.38	6.19	-0.5
2010	OAK	MLB	22	18	8	0	30	30	196 ²	155	19	63	118	2.9	5.4	57%	.237	1.11	2.97	4.16	4.52	2.1
2011	OAK	MLB	23	12	14	0	34	34	207 ²	214	19	82	147	3.6	6.4	57%	.306	1.43	4.16	4.14	4.79	0.5
2012	ARI	MLB	24	12	10	0	31	31	194	172	19	68	124	3.2	5.7	55%	.281	1.24	3.88	4.25	4.22	2.3

What a difference a BABIP makes. Cahill posted FIPs just .02 runs apart in 2010 and 2011, but his ERA rose well over a run last season—to match his 2010 FIP perfectly—thanks to the most predictable BABIP correction in baseball. When he's not enjoying unusually good fortune on balls in play, Cahill is no better than a league-average innings muncher, but he's just embarking on his age-24 season and won't become overly expensive till 2015. Although he misses more bats than some pitch-to-contact types, he recorded the majors' sixth-highest groundball rate last season, which should help him survive the transition to a less forgiving park after joining the D-Backs' predominantly fly-ball-oriented staff in a December swap that sent Jarrod Parker to Oakland.

Josh Collmenter

Born: 2/7/1986 Age: 26
 Bats: R Throws: R Height: 6' 3" Weight: 235
 Breakout: 22% Improve: 60% Collapse: 20%
 Attrition: 9% MLB: 88%

Comparables:

Pat Jarvis, Joel Pineiro, Joe Blanton

YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	W	L	SV	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	EqBB9	EqSO9	GB%	BABIP	WHIP	ERA	FIP	FRA	WARP
2011	ARI	MLB	25	10	10	0	31	24	154 ¹	137	17	28	100	1.6	5.8	35%	.260	1.07	3.38	3.77	3.63	2.5
2012	ARI	MLB	26	7	7	0	19	19	113 ²	110	13	37	69	2.9	5.5	40%	.288	1.29	4.25	4.45	4.62	0.8

First, the good news: A year after posting a near-6.00 ERA in the PCL, Collmenter spent all but one start of his season in the majors, finishing with a better-than-average ERA and the third-highest WARP among rookie pitchers. That—plus the successful showing in the Arizona Fall League that preceded it—would've qualified as a successful debut for any player, let alone one

who wasn't well-regarded by prospect hounds, didn't make the Opening Day roster, and started out in the bullpen once he did get called up. The bad news is that Collmenter is essentially the same pitcher who struggled in Triple-A, which means he's not the safest bet to repeat his first-season heroics. Collmenter has a quirky delivery with an unorthodox release point, the sort of skill that beats hitters like gangbusters the first time they see it but lacks the staying power of, say, a 90-mph fastball (his barely averaged 87). Only Roy Halladay and Cliff Lee had better walk rates among NL pitchers with at least 150 innings, but that stinginess with free passes was out of character for Collmenter, and he'll be in trouble if his control regresses. A mustache can take you only so far.

Patrick Corbin		YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	W	L	SV	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	EqBB9	EqSO9	GB%	BABIP	WHIP	ERA	FIP	FRA	WARP
Born: 7/19/1989 Age: 22		2009	ORM	RK	19	4	2	0	13	12	46 ¹	63	6	13	49	2.1	8.9	50%	.341	1.51	5.05	4.33	5.81	0.5
Bats: L Throws: L Height: 6' 4" Weight: 165		2010	CDR	A	20	8	0	0	9	9	58 ¹	46	2	8	41	1.5	6.5	52%	.291	1.06	3.86	3.40	4.45	0.5
Breakout: 26% Improve: 39% Collapse: 12%		2010	VIS	A+	20	0	1	0	8	8	26	17	1	9	29	3.1	10.4	50%	.291	1.00	1.38	3.13	2.69	0.8
Attrition: 8% MLB: 85%		2010	RCU	A+	20	5	3	0	11	11	60 ¹	49	6	12	59	2.7	9.6	54%	.328	1.24	3.88	3.80	4.48	0.5
Comparables:		2011	MOB	AA	21	6	4	0	26	26	160 ¹	185	18	44	147	2.2	8.0	48%	.333	1.32	4.21	3.97	4.89	2.1
George Stone, Brad Havens, Ryan Feierabend		2012	ARI	MLB	22	3	4	0	10	10	53 ²	57	7	18	33	3.1	5.5	47%	.311	1.40	5.06	4.68	5.50	-0.1

Corbin would like to remind you that there was more than one pitching prospect involved in the Dan Haren deal. The lefty doesn't have the ceiling of Tyler Skaggs, but he does appear destined to fill a spot in the middle or at the end of a major-league rotation, which could come in handy in the event the D-Backs staff isn't completely stocked with aces by 2013. Arizona was aggressive with his assignment, starting him off at Double-A despite expectations that he'd return to Visalia for more seasoning. His strikeout rate didn't survive the promotion completely intact, which could have stemmed in part from the pitch-to-contact philosophy he preached, but his walk rate improved enough to keep him out of trouble. Corbin could still add some speed to a sinking fastball that sits around 90 and gets groundballs, and his slider is already effective enough to have helped him strike out a third of the southpaws he faced last season.

Sam Demel		YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	W	L	SV	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	EqBB9	EqSO9	GB%	BABIP	WHIP	ERA	FIP	FRA	WARP
Born: 10/23/1985 Age: 26		2009	MID	AA	23	0	2	11	27	0	29 ¹	23	1	9	26	2.8	8.0	57%	.265	1.09	0.61	2.83	3.95	0.5
Bats: R Throws: R Height: 6' 1" Weight: 215		2009	SAC	AAA	23	2	3	3	28	0	32 ¹	30	1	21	37	5.9	9.2	49%	.309	1.49	3.62	3.61	2.32	1.3
Breakout: 14% Improve: 50% Collapse: 18%		2010	SAC	AAA	24	2	0	6	22	0	28 ²	16	1	6	18	2.8	8.8	53%	.268	1.08	1.25	3.88	4.04	0.3
Attrition: 27% MLB: 91%		2010	ARI	MLB	24	2	1	2	37	0	37	42	5	12	33	2.9	8.0	53%	.325	1.46	5.35	4.13	5.69	-0.2
Comparables:		2011	ARI	MLB	25	2	2	0	34	0	25 ²	31	4	13	15	4.6	5.3	59%	.329	1.71	4.21	5.60	6.91	-0.6
Boone Logan, Yhency Brazoban, Roberto Novoa		2012	ARI	MLB	26	1	1	0	29	0	28 ²	27	3	12	23	3.8	7.1	53%	.308	1.38	4.69	4.22	5.10	0.0

Demel's 2011 season was a step back from his 2010 in more ways than one. Since his 2010 wasn't impressive to begin with, that step took him back to Triple-A. In 25 2/3 innings interspersed with a stint on the DL for shoulder tendinitis, a rehab assignment in Reno, and a subsequent demotion, Demel's K:BB ratio was less than half of what it had been the season before, lefties tattooed him to the tune of a .379/.500/.552 line, and his fastball was 3 mph slower. Another step in the same direction might take him off the 40-man roster.

Zach Duke		YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	W	L	SV	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	EqBB9	EqSO9	GB%	BABIP	WHIP	ERA	FIP	FRA	WARP	
Born: 4/19/1983 Age: 29		2009	PIT	MLB	26	11	16	0	32	32	213	231	23	49	106	2.1	4.5	50%	.301	1.31	4.06	4.20	5.03	1.4	
Bats: L Throws: L Height: 6' 3" Weight: 210		2010	PIT	MLB	27	8	15	0	29	29	159	212	25	51	96	2.9	5.4	49%	.343	1.65	5.72	4.98	5.28	-0.1	
Breakout: 22% Improve: 61% Collapse: 18%		2011	ARI	MLB	28	3	4	1	21	9	76 ²	101	6	19	32	2.2	3.8	50%	.343	1.57	4.93	3.96	4.54	0.7	
Attrition: 16% MLB: 78%		2012	ARI	MLB	29	4	6	0	18	14	83	100	10	18	33	2.0	3.5	50%	.325	1.43	5.47	4.63	5.95	-0.5	
Comparables:																									
Mike Maroth, Carlos Perez, Butch Henry																									

First impressions are powerful. Duke is the equivalent of the guy who wears a snappy suit to an interview and lands a job, only to spend the next several years taking two-hour lunch breaks, using his phone for personal calls, and stealing paper from the printer. It's hard to say how much Duke's fluky 14-start debut in 2005 has to do with the chances he's gotten since then—he is a lefty, after all—but among hurlers with at least 900 innings pitched over the intervening six seasons, only Aaron Cook has had a lower strikeout rate than Duke's 4.5 per nine. A line drive fractured Duke's hand in mid-March, keeping him out until late May, but once he did return, both his fastball velocity (86.5) and strikeout rate (3.8 per nine) plummeted, leaving him too dependent on his decent control and moderate groundball ability to get him out of trouble. In mid-July, he became a reliever, posting an improved ERA but an even sorer strikeout rate. If he doesn't stick in the bullpen, he won't like what comes next.

Barry Enright

Born: 3/30/1986 Age: 26
 Bats: R Throws: R Height: 6' 4" Weight: 220
 Breakout: 24% Improve: 55% Collapse: 16%
 Attrition: 27% MLB: 83%

Comparables:

Rich Bordi, Larry Christenson, Jackson Todd

YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	W	L	SV	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	EqBB9	EqS09	GB%	BABIP	WHIP	ERA	FIP	FRA	WARP
2009	MOB	AA	23	10	9	0	27	27	156	171	16	37	103	2.1	5.9	44%	.316	1.33	3.98	3.90	4.46	2.9
2010	MOB	AA	24	4	1	0	14	14	93 ²	46	6	12	50	1.4	8.0	41%	.253	1.02	2.88	3.86	3.77	2.1
2010	ARI	MLB	24	6	7	0	17	17	99	97	20	29	49	2.6	4.5	37%	.254	1.27	3.91	5.65	5.09	0.8
2011	RNO	AAA	25	9	5	0	21	21	122 ²	133	21	43	89	3.1	6.3	36%	.291	1.38	5.21	5.68	5.43	1.7
2011	ARI	MLB	25	1	4	0	7	7	37 ²	50	11	15	21	3.6	5.0	40%	.315	1.73	7.41	6.95	6.90	-0.5
2012	ARI	MLB	26	4	6	0	14	14	82	89	14	24	43	2.6	4.8	40%	.299	1.38	5.38	5.25	5.84	-0.5

The honeymoon period lasted six starts. After that, Enright's lousy 2011 took precedence over his superficially successful 2010, and he found himself in Reno to stay, save for a lone shellacking in a mid-July spot start. The fly-baller suffered from the same gopher-itis that afflicted him in 2010, allowing 1.7 home runs per nine innings across two levels, and this time he didn't have the BABIP luck to survive the barrage. He did successfully live-tweet Daniel Hudson's wedding in early November, complete with video and pictures, so he could make a smooth transition into a second career as a wedding photographer if his uneven performance in the Venezuelan Winter League carries over into 2012.

Armando Galarraga

Born: 1/15/1982 Age: 30
 Bats: R Throws: R Height: 6' 5" Weight: 180
 Breakout: 35% Improve: 47% Collapse: 29%
 Attrition: 9% MLB: 86%

Comparables:

Dave Mlicki, Greg Harris, Ernie Johnson

YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	W	L	SV	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	EqBB9	EqS09	GB%	BABIP	WHIP	ERA	FIP	FRA	WARP
2009	DET	MLB	27	6	10	0	29	25	143 ²	158	24	67	95	4.2	6.0	41%	.298	1.57	5.64	5.52	6.35	-0.9
2010	DET	MLB	28	4	9	0	25	24	144 ¹	143	21	51	74	3.2	4.6	39%	.262	1.34	4.49	5.06	4.91	0.7
2011	ARI	MLB	29	3	4	0	8	8	42 ²	47	13	22	28	4.6	5.9	43%	.260	1.62	5.91	7.26	6.97	-1.0
2012	ARI	MLB	30	4	4	0	11	11	63 ¹	61	10	23	39	3.3	5.5	43%	.281	1.33	4.90	5.11	5.32	0.0

Galarraga was much further away from perfection last season than a blown call by Jim Joyce.

After Arizona traded for him in late January, he showed why fly-ball pitchers aren't a good fit for Chase Field, coughing up 13 round-trippers in his eight starts, seven of them in just 17 innings at home. Galarraga appeared gracious in the wake of his 2010 almost-perfecto, but he was anything but after being sent to Reno in May, admitting that he'd complied with the team's wishes only so he could collect on his \$2.3 million and that he didn't think he had anything to work on. He ran up an ERA over 9.00 with more walks than strikeouts before an arm injury ended his season in mid-July, suggesting either that sulking impacts performance or that he had even more to work on than the D-Backs thought.

David Hernandez

Born: 5/13/1985 Age: 27
 Bats: R Throws: R Height: 6' 4" Weight: 215
 Breakout: 24% Improve: 60% Collapse: 21%
 Attrition: 23% MLB: 81%

Comparables:

Luis Tiant, Matt Turner, Robb Nen

YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	W	L	SV	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	EqBB9	EqS09	GB%	BABIP	WHIP	ERA	FIP	FRA	WARP
2009	BAL	MLB	24	4	10	0	20	19	101 ¹	118	27	46	68	4.1	6.0	31%	.286	1.62	5.42	6.66	6.90	-0.8
2010	BAL	MLB	25	8	8	2	41	8	79 ¹	72	9	42	72	4.8	8.2	29%	.286	1.44	4.31	4.45	4.97	0.2
2011	ARI	MLB	26	5	3	11	74	0	69 ¹	49	4	30	77	3.9	10.0	34%	.257	1.14	3.38	2.91	3.70	0.9
2012	ARI	MLB	27	3	2	3	50	3	64 ¹	57	9	26	57	3.6	7.9	35%	.294	1.29	4.36	4.46	4.74	0.3

After converting to relief in late May 2010, Hernandez picked up a mile per hour on his fastball and nearly doubled his K rate to 10.9 per nine. Both upticks proved sustainable in his first big-

league season spent entirely in the bullpen after Kevin Towers took a liking to what he saw of the new Hernandez and acquired him in the Mark Reynolds deal. Hernandez rewarded Towers' faith with a strong setup season, earning the highest-leverage outings of any Arizona pitcher other than J.J. Putz. He did limit opposing batters to a .253 BABIP and only four home runs despite the second-highest fly ball percentage among Diamondbacks who pitched at least 50 innings, so there could be some regression coming.

David Holmberg

Born: 7/19/1991 Age: 20
 Bats: R Throws: L Height: 6' 5" Weight: 219
 Breakout: 53% Improve: 73% Collapse: 12%
 Attrition: 2% MLB: 33%

Comparables:

Don Drysdale, Milt Pappas, Dick Brodowski

YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	W	L	SV	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	EqBB9	EqS09	GB%	BABIP	WHIP	ERA	FIP	FRA	WARP
2009	BRI	RK	17	2	2	0	14	7	40	40	5	18	37	4.1	8.3	50%	.307	1.45	4.72	4.96	6.25	-0.3
2010	MSO	RK	18	1	4	0	7	7	37 ¹	47	2	7	47	1.7	11.3	56%	.398	1.45	3.86	2.97	5.60	-0.1
2010	GRF	RK	18	1	1	0	8	8	40 ¹	31	2	6	17	2.0	6.5	56%	.349	1.51	4.47	4.48	5.71	-0.7
2011	SBN	A	19	8	3	0	14	14	83	57	3	12	77	1.4	8.8	52%	.265	0.94	2.39	2.62	3.59	1.6
2011	VIS	A+	19	3	3	0	13	13	71 ¹	73	5	35	76	4.4	9.6	45%	.342	1.51	4.67	4.31	4.40	0.9
2012	ARI	MLB	20	2	3	0	8	8	43	45	5	20	26	4.2	5.5	48%	.312	1.53	5.58	4.90	6.06	-0.3

If Holmberg never throws a pitch at the major-league level, the Snakes still will have come out ahead in the Edwin Jackson trade, courtesy of Daniel Hudson's contributions. However, Holmberg seems determined to tip the trade further in their favor. The 19-year-old southpaw mastered the Midwest League, finishing with a flourish at that level by making five consecutive

scoreless starts with 31 strikeouts and one walk in 34 frames. After a promotion to High-A at midseason, his walk rate suffered but his strikeout rate ticked up. Holmberg's 6'4 frame finally yielded the velocity that was expected of it, turning an 88-90-mph fastball into one that ranged from 90-94, and he already possessed solid secondary stuff and control. The scary thing is that all of that might make him only the organization's fourth- or fifth-best lefty pitching prospect.

Daniel Hudson

Born: **3/9/1987** Age: **25**
 Bats: **R** Throws: **R** Height: **6' 5"** Weight: **220**
 Breakout: **12%** Improve: **35%** Collapse: **25%**
 Attrition: **8%** MLB: **97%**

Comparables:

Adam Wainwright, Jered Weaver, Kevin Millwood

YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	W	L	SV	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	EqBB9	EqSO9	GB%	BABIP	WHIP	ERA	FIP	FRA	WARP
2009	WNS	A+	22	4	3	0	8	8	45	31	3	13	49	2.6	9.8	53%	.257	0.98	3.40	3.04	3.70	1.1
2009	BIR	AA	22	7	0	0	9	9	56 ¹	37	1	10	63	1.6	10.1	39%	.269	0.83	1.60	1.79	2.21	1.8
2009	CHA	MLB	22	1	1	0	6	2	18 ²	16	3	9	14	4.3	6.8	34%	.236	1.34	3.38	5.34	5.97	0.0
2010	CHR	AAA	23	11	4	0	17	17	93 ¹	52	7	19	71	3.0	10.4	44%	.273	1.20	3.47	3.72	3.92	1.9
2010	CHA	MLB	23	1	1	0	3	3	15 ²	17	1	11	14	6.3	8.0	30%	.364	1.79	6.32	4.20	4.59	0.0
2010	ARI	MLB	23	7	1	0	11	11	79 ²	51	7	16	70	1.8	7.9	40%	.217	0.84	1.69	3.24	3.10	1.9
2011	ARI	MLB	24	16	12	0	33	33	222	217	17	50	169	2.0	6.9	43%	.298	1.20	3.49	3.25	4.01	3.0
2012	ARI	MLB	25	11	9	0	28	28	178 ¹	154	18	47	144	2.4	7.3	42%	.289	1.13	3.53	3.69	3.84	2.9

Any demerits Jerry DiPoto might have earned as a result of the Dan Haren deal were more than made up for by his Hudson heist. After easily outdoing Edwin Jackson down the stretch in 2010, Hudson turned in a strong full season as Arizona's second starter, showing even better control than Ian Kennedy by walking just 5.4 percent of opposing batters, a top-10 figure among NL qualifiers. Not only that, he won a Silver Slugger Award (which must have made Micah Owings jealous) thanks to a .226 TAV (which must have made Melvin Mora, Sean Burroughs, and Geoff Blum jealous). Better performance with runners in scoring position might improve his ERA even further, since he suffered from one of the league's lowest left-on-base rates last season.

Chris Jakubauskas

Born: **12/22/1978** Age: **33**
 Bats: **L** Throws: **R** Height: **6' 3"** Weight: **215**
 Breakout: **12%** Improve: **29%** Collapse: **26%**
 Attrition: **21%** MLB: **86%**

Comparables:

Craig Lefferts, Charles Nagy, Frank Tanana

YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	W	L	SV	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	EqBB9	EqSO9	GB%	BABIP	WHIP	ERA	FIP	FRA	WARP
2009	SEA	MLB	30	6	7	0	35	8	93	91	15	27	47	2.6	4.5	46%	.254	1.27	5.32	5.17	5.91	-0.3
2010	PIT	MLB	31	0	1	0	1	1	0 ²	2	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	%	.500	3.00	27.00	3.11	4.22	0.0
2011	BAL	MLB	32	2	2	0	33	6	72 ¹	93	11	29	52	3.6	6.5	46%	.349	1.69	5.72	4.93	5.57	0.0
2012	ARI	MLB	33	3	3	0	25	9	65 ²	69	8	20	38	2.8	5.2	46%	.305	1.36	4.88	4.54	5.30	0.1

Jakubauskas has spent his entire MLB career as a swing man, splitting time in the rotation and bullpen as far back as 2007 in Double-A after the Mariners plucked him from the independent leagues. In the majors, he's been less successful as a starter (4.7 K/9, 3.4 BB/9) then as a reliever (5.8 K/9, 2.9 BB/9), when he can keep his fastball consistently at 91-92 mph as opposed to 89. Having only a looping curve to play off his relatively straight heater also suits him better for work out of the pen. Jakubauskas spent the second half of last season in the bullpen for the Orioles, occasionally being asked to pitch two or three innings at a time, and that seems to be the role he's best suited for. He'll try to win a spot in Arizona's bullpen.

Ian Kennedy

Born: **12/19/1984** Age: **27**
 Bats: **R** Throws: **R** Height: **6' 1"** Weight: **190**
 Breakout: **13%** Improve: **56%** Collapse: **29%**
 Attrition: **11%** MLB: **90%**

Comparables:

Jensen Lewis, Ramon Ramirez, Justin Verlander

YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	W	L	SV	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	EqBB9	EqSO9	GB%	BABIP	WHIP	ERA	FIP	FRA	WARP
2009	NYA	MLB	24	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	1	18.0	9.0	%	.000	2.00	0.00	10.14	9.12	0.0
2010	ARI	MLB	25	9	10	0	32	32	194	163	26	70	168	3.2	7.8	39%	.261	1.20	3.80	4.35	4.44	2.6
2011	ARI	MLB	26	21	4	0	33	33	222	186	19	55	198	2.2	8.0	40%	.274	1.09	2.88	3.19	3.76	3.1
2012	ARI	MLB	27	12	9	0	28	28	181 ²	154	19	57	151	2.8	7.5	39%	.284	1.16	3.63	3.84	3.94	2.7

With so many valuable pieces changing hands, it's tough to say who got the best of the three-team swap that brought Kennedy to the D-Backs in late 2009, but it's hard to be upset when your haul includes a Cy Young contender. Despite his league-leading win total and winning percentage, Kennedy wasn't the NL's best pitcher—he ranked 11th in WARP—but his record wasn't just a product of the 11th-highest run support among qualifying NL starters, either. Although he sports the sixth-lowest BABIP among pitchers with at least 400 innings over the last two seasons, a big correction might not be coming: like other perennial low-BABIP arms like Matt Cain and Jered Weaver, he's adept at inducing pop-ups, which don't often fall in for hits.

Wade Miley
 Born: 11/13/1986 Age: 25
 Bats: L Throws: L Height: 6' 2" Weight: 220
 Breakout: 21% Improve: 57% Collapse: 14%
 Attrition: 11% MLB: 88%
Comparables:
 Matt Chico, Chuck Stobbs, Zach Jackson

YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	W	L	SV	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	EqBB9	EqSO9	GB%	BABIP	WHIP	ERA	FIP	FRA	WARP
2009	SBN	A	22	5	9	0	21	21	113 ²	127	8	29	91	2.3	7.2	58%	.343	1.37	4.12	3.80	5.41	0.0
2010	VIS	A+	23	4	5	0	14	14	80 ¹	76	1	34	45	4.1	5.6	68%	.326	1.47	3.25	4.17	5.24	-0.1
2010	MOB	AA	23	5	3	0	13	13	72 ²	43	2	20	47	3.5	7.8	61%	.301	1.21	1.98	3.48	4.09	0.9
2011	MOB	AA	24	0	2	0	14	14	75 ¹	71	6	27	45	3.3	5.5	57%	.283	1.35	4.78	4.34	5.22	0.0
2011	RNO	AAA	24	4	1	0	8	8	54 ¹	53	4	16	55	2.7	9.3	51%	.331	1.27	3.64	3.55	3.99	1.2
2011	ARI	MLB	24	4	2	0	8	7	40	48	6	18	25	4.1	5.6	49%	.328	1.65	4.50	5.04	5.64	-0.2
2012	ARI	MLB	25	4	5	0	12	12	71 ¹	78	9	29	38	3.6	4.8	53%	.313	1.49	5.29	5.00	5.75	-0.3

Three starts by Jason Marquis cost the Diamondbacks \$2.5 million and a marginal prospect. Seven starts down the stretch by Miley, Marquis's replacement, cost them a ticket to Phoenix and the pro-rated major-league minimum. That's why it's so nice to have the surplus of young, major-league-ready arms that the Diamondbacks do. Miley's stuff and stats made great strides in 2010, and he took another step forward last season. Strangely, he had his most success in Reno, one of the worst environments for pitchers in all of organized baseball; the lefty was the only arm on the Aces to pitch over 25 innings with an ERA below 4.25. His strikeout rate ticked up there, too, though he didn't miss as many bats in the majors. Southpaws who can touch the mid-90s and get groundballs without walking the ballpark are scarce, and Miley could do a credible job in the back of the D-Backs' rotation right now.

Micah Owings
 Born: 9/28/1982 Age: 29
 Bats: R Throws: R Height: 6' 2" Weight: 225
 Breakout: 39% Improve: 55% Collapse: 21%
 Attrition: 12% MLB: 84%
Comparables:
 Tommy Greene, Ken Forsch, Paul Wilson

YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	W	L	SV	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	EqBB9	EqSO9	GB%	BABIP	WHIP	ERA	FIP	FRA	WARP
2009	CIN	MLB	26	7	12	1	26	19	119 ²	126	18	64	68	4.8	5.1	38%	.282	1.59	5.34	5.63	5.44	0.9
2010	LOU	AAA	27	0	1	0	8	5	20 ¹	16	2	8	11	4.4	5.8	39%	.264	1.48	2.22	5.65	4.91	0.2
2010	CIN	MLB	27	3	2	0	22	0	33 ¹	28	3	25	35	6.8	9.4	32%	.294	1.59	5.40	4.70	5.51	0.1
2011	RNO	AAA	28	3	1	0	7	7	39	41	5	9	27	2.1	6.2	45%	.295	1.28	4.85	4.86	6.18	0.5
2011	ARI	MLB	28	8	0	0	33	4	63	56	8	23	44	3.3	6.3	39%	.264	1.25	3.57	4.44	5.21	0.0
2012	ARI	MLB	29	3	2	0	27	6	58 ²	56	8	22	39	3.4	6.0	38%	.289	1.32	4.71	4.77	5.12	0.1

Okay, so maybe there's still *something* to the notion of Owings as a pitcher, albeit not a starting one. After struggling a bit in the rotation at Triple-A Reno, he returned to relief at the major-league level, making a few starts between low-leverage outings in the middle innings. His second extended stint in a big-league bullpen wasn't plagued by the same control problems that stymied him in 2010, giving him superficial statistics good enough to earn a spot on the postseason roster. Between that and his pedestrian performance at the plate (4-for-19 without an extra-base hit), the idea of his reinventing himself as a position player seems a lot less exciting than it did a year ago, though a disturbing drop in velocity of nearly three mph and a forthcoming BABIP correction suggest that his future on the mound isn't so hot, either.

Joe Paterson
 Born: 5/19/1986 Age: 26
 Bats: R Throws: L Height: 6' 2" Weight: 210
 Breakout: 30% Improve: 60% Collapse: 18%
 Attrition: 12% MLB: 91%
Comparables:
 Chad Billingsley, Kevin Jepsen, Greg Harris

YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	W	L	SV	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	EqBB9	EqSO9	GB%	BABIP	WHIP	ERA	FIP	FRA	WARP
2009	NRW	AA	23	5	6	10	55	0	69	53	3	25	73	3.1	9.0	50%	.262	1.03	1.96	2.85	3.52	1.4
2010	FRE	AAA	24	4	3	2	46	0	54 ¹	33	1	13	34	4.0	8.1	51%	.305	1.45	3.48	3.82	5.14	0.1
2011	ARI	MLB	25	0	3	1	62	0	34	28	1	15	28	4.0	7.4	55%	.276	1.26	2.91	3.41	5.44	-0.1
2012	ARI	MLB	26	2	1	0	36	0	30 ²	28	3	12	24	3.5	7.0	50%	.299	1.30	4.16	4.08	4.52	0.2

Paterson's 34 frames last season were the fourth-least ever thrown by a pitcher with at least 60 appearances, behind only Tony Fossas, Arizona predecessor Mike Myers, and the ageless Jesse Orosco, whom Paterson probably had a poster of in his childhood bedroom. Like those previous practitioners of the situational lefty trade, Paterson can expect his yearly ERAs to fluctuate wildly without much of a change in his underlying performance, since BABIP variations over the small samples that constitute his seasons will largely determine how his stat lines look at first glance. Fortunately, 2011 was a low-BABIP year, but Paterson's peripherals suggest that he can survive—maybe for decades—even when fewer balls bounce his way and more than 5 percent of his flies leave the park.

J.J. Putz
 Born: 2/22/1977 Age: 35
 Bats: R Throws: R Height: 6' 6" Weight: 220
 Breakout: 14% Improve: 39% Collapse: 31%
 Attrition: 20% MLB: 83%
Comparables:
 Rafael Betancourt, Rich Gossage, Pedro Martinez

YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	W	L	SV	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	EqBB9	EqSO9	GB%	BABIP	WHIP	ERA	FIP	FRA	WARP
2009	NYN	MLB	32	1	4	2	29	0	29 ¹	29	1	19	19	5.8	5.8	46%	.295	1.64	5.22	4.15	4.65	0.1
2010	CHA	MLB	33	7	5	3	60	0	54	41	4	15	65	2.5	10.8	49%	.278	1.04	2.83	2.49	3.98	0.9
2011	ARI	MLB	34	2	2	45	60	0	58	41	4	12	61	1.9	9.5	44%	.250	0.91	2.17	2.51	3.33	1.0
2012	ARI	MLB	35	3	1	19	56	0	52 ¹	41	5	16	53	2.7	9.1	45%	.291	1.08	2.94	3.34	3.20	1.2

On the first leg of Putz's two-year, \$10 million deal, the oft-injured reliever pitched as well as he had since his heyday in Seattle and succeeded in high-leverage spots and appearances on short or no rest, both of which gave him trouble with the White Sox. He did seem poised to fall apart when he missed roughly a month at midseason with elbow inflammation after allowing runs in two consecutive appearances, but he showed no ill effects following his return in late July, pitching to a 0.77 second-half ERA. Any delivery could be his last, but unless his elbow finally gives up the ghost in 2012, his contract will continue to look reasonable compared to those of some of his late-inning counterparts.

Takashi Saito

Born: **2/14/1970** Age: **42**
 Bats: **L** Throws: **R** Height: **6' 2"** Weight: **202**
 Breakout: **13%** Improve: **34%** Collapse: **27%**
 Attrition: **19%** MLB: **72%**

Comparables:

Steve Carlton, Dan Plesac, Doug Brocail

YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	W	L	SV	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	EqBB9	EqSO9	GB%	BABIP	WHIP	ERA	FIP	FRA	WARP
2009	BOS	MLB	39	3	3	2	56	0	55 ²	50	6	25	52	4.0	8.4	35%	.291	1.35	2.43	4.29	4.50	0.7
2010	ATL	MLB	40	2	3	1	56	0	54	41	4	17	69	2.8	11.5	44%	.287	1.07	2.83	2.46	2.82	1.3
2011	MIL	MLB	41	4	2	0	30	0	26 ²	21	2	9	23	3.0	7.8	45%	.264	1.12	2.03	3.37	3.73	0.4
2012	ARI	MLB	42	2	1	0	33	0	30 ²	24	3	9	31	2.7	9.2	45%	.292	1.07	2.87	3.33	3.12	0.7

The earthquake, tsunami, and resultant nuclear disaster that struck Saito's native Miyagi Prefecture last spring might have made baseball a welcome distraction. Unfortunately, he had plenty of time to contemplate problems at home while spending 88 days on the DL with hamstring and oblique injuries. A career-low innings pitched total and strikeout rate revealed some concessions to age, but Saito remained effective while on the mound. Among pitchers with at least 300 innings of work over the past six seasons, only Mariano Rivera and Joe Nathan have lower ERAs than Saito's 2.18. With age-36-41 seasons like those, one wonders what kind of major-league career Saito might have had if he'd come to America earlier. However, all that matters to the Diamondbacks, who signed him in December, is whether he'll have any life left at age 42.

Joe Saunders

Born: **6/16/1981** Age: **31**
 Bats: **L** Throws: **L** Height: **6' 4"** Weight: **210**
 Breakout: **17%** Improve: **37%** Collapse: **25%**
 Attrition: **14%** MLB: **70%**

Comparables:

Chris Jakubauskas, Jarrod Washburn, Brian Gordon

YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	W	L	SV	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	EqBB9	EqSO9	GB%	BABIP	WHIP	ERA	FIP	FRA	WARP
2009	ANA	MLB	28	16	7	0	31	31	186	202	29	64	101	3.1	4.9	48%	.289	1.43	4.60	5.21	5.72	0.1
2010	ARI	MLB	29	3	7	0	13	13	82 ²	97	11	19	50	2.1	5.4	46%	.315	1.40	4.25	4.46	4.80	0.5
2010	ANA	MLB	29	6	10	0	20	20	120 ²	135	14	45	64	3.4	4.8	44%	.308	1.49	4.62	4.64	4.74	0.9
2011	ARI	MLB	30	12	13	0	33	33	212	210	29	67	108	2.8	4.6	46%	.275	1.31	3.69	4.74	4.66	0.8
2012	ARI	MLB	31	10	11	0	28	28	178 ¹	184	23	48	93	2.4	4.7	46%	.299	1.30	4.64	4.65	5.04	0.4

Saunders didn't make D-Backs fans forget Dan Haren—if anyone Arizona obtained in the 2010 trade does that, it will be Tyler Skaggs—but if you didn't watch the games and looked at his stat line only long enough to see his ERA and innings pitched total, it was like Haren never left. At the time of the trade, then-interim GM Jerry DiPoto summoned the scorn of the bloggerati by repeatedly citing Saunders' .628 career winning percentage in an effort to make the salary dump easier to swallow. Ironically, the righty has run a 15-20 record since then while improving upon his career Angels ERA by almost half a run. However, that apparent improvement rests on the shakiest of foundations, since Saunders' 4.6 K/9 was the lowest among qualified NL pitchers in 2011. As Bill James once said, "There is simply no such thing as a starter who has a long career with a low strikeout rate." The D-Backs have been reading their *Baseball Abstracts*: They non-tendered Saunders in December.

Bryan Shaw

Born: **11/8/1987** Age: **24**
 Bats: **B** Throws: **R** Height: **6' 2"** Weight: **210**
 Breakout: **29%** Improve: **58%** Collapse: **20%**
 Attrition: **18%** MLB: **88%**

Comparables:

Mike Pelfrey, Mike Witt, Nelson Briles

YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	W	L	SV	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	EqBB9	EqSO9	GB%	BABIP	WHIP	ERA	FIP	FRA	WARP
2009	VIS	A+	21	3	7	0	30	19	107 ¹	96	7	40	95	3.4	8.0	59%	.291	1.27	4.70	4.26	6.23	-0.7
2010	MOB	AA	22	5	9	2	33	13	101 ¹	58	1	25	51	3.8	6.7	60%	.295	1.43	4.26	3.59	5.05	-0.2
2011	MOB	AA	23	1	1	7	15	0	20 ²	14	1	8	15	3.5	6.5	51%	.236	1.11	0.87	3.64	4.90	0.1
2011	ARI	MLB	23	1	0	0	33	0	28 ¹	30	2	8	24	2.5	7.6	60%	.333	1.34	2.54	3.49	4.16	0.1
2012	ARI	MLB	24	2	1	0	22	3	37 ²	37	4	15	23	3.6	5.5	53%	.297	1.38	4.80	4.56	5.22	0.0

Shaw's first full season in the bullpen since his 2008 professional debut resulted in his making the majors. Shaw racked up 16 saves between Mobile and Reno, took well to the NL West, and has a power sinker that averages 93 and tops out at 95, but he doesn't miss as many bats as the typical closer candidate, which could restrict him to setup duty. What the '08 second-rounder does do is keep the ball out of the air, which should serve him well in Chase Field.

Tyler Skaggs
 Born: 7/13/1991 Age: 20
 Bats: L Throws: L Height: 6' 5" Weight: 195
 Breakout: 49% Improve: 63% Collapse: 20%
 Attrition: 16% MLB: 94%
Comparables:
 Mike McQueen, Chris Zachary, Terry Forster

YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	W	L	SV	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	EqBB9	EqS09	GB%	BABIP	WHIP	ERA	FIP	FRA	WARP
2010	CDR	A	18	8	4	0	19	14	82 ¹	58	5	14	66	2.3	9.0	50%	.303	1.20	3.61	3.64	4.46	1.0
2011	VIS	A+	19	1	3	0	17	17	100 ²	81	6	34	125	3.0	11.2	53%	.310	1.14	3.22	3.39	3.57	2.2
2011	MOB	AA	19	1	0	0	10	10	57 ²	56	4	18	89	2.3	11.4	45%	.317	1.04	2.50	2.16	3.29	1.6
2012	ARI	MLB	20	3	3	0	9	9	49 ²	45	5	18	44	3.2	7.9	47%	.305	1.26	4.06	3.83	4.41	0.5

In *BP2011*, we wrote, "We're two years away from knowing if Skaggs is a star or back-of-the-rotation starter." With one year remaining on that timeline, "star" looks like the more likely outcome

for the 2009 supplemental first rounder. Previously a one-level-per-year prospect, Skaggs mastered High-A and moved on to Double-A in 2011, boosting his strikeout rate above 11 batters per nine at both levels without a corresponding increase in walks. For that performance, he earned the organization's Pitcher of the Year honors, following in the footsteps of such Diamondbacks luminaries as Bret Prinz, Brian Bruney, and Enrique Gonzalez. From here, his path will diverge from theirs; after bumping his velocity into the 92-93 range and further refining a changeup to accompany a plus curve, the lefty's stuff has made up much of the difference between projection and reality. The 20-year-old could use another full season in the minors, but he should be ready to form a young and talented righty-lefty tandem with Bauer at the top of the 2013 rotation. Dan Haren who?

Brad Ziegler
 Born: 10/10/1979 Age: 32
 Bats: R Throws: R Height: 6' 5" Weight: 200
 Breakout: 8% Improve: 45% Collapse: 36%
 Attrition: 16% MLB: 97%
Comparables:
 Braden Looper, Tim Hudson, Orel Hershiser

YEAR	TEAM	LVL	AGE	W	L	SV	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	EqBB9	EqS09	GB%	BABIP	WHIP	ERA	FIP	FRA	WARP
2009	OAK	MLB	29	2	4	7	69	0	73 ¹	82	2	28	54	3.4	6.6	62%	.352	1.50	3.07	3.21	4.39	0.7
2010	OAK	MLB	30	3	7	0	64	0	60 ²	54	4	28	41	4.2	6.1	56%	.278	1.35	3.26	4.09	4.74	0.1
2011	OAK	MLB	31	3	2	1	43	0	37 ²	38	0	13	29	3.1	6.9	73%	.328	1.35	2.39	2.64	4.55	0.1
2011	ARI	MLB	31	0	0	0	23	0	20 ²	15	0	6	15	2.6	6.5	66%	.259	1.02	1.74	2.41	4.49	0.0
2012	ARI	MLB	32	3	1	1	59	0	53 ²	49	3	18	35	2.9	5.9	61%	.304	1.24	3.69	3.63	4.01	0.7

Ziegler has been an inveterate worm-killer since his 2008 debut, but he took his ground-balling to even greater heights (so to speak) last season, keeping 70.3 percent of his balls in play allowed on the ground, the highest rate of any hurler with a minimum of 50 innings pitched save for Jonny Venters. Thanks to that aversion to air balls and a corresponding uptick in strikeout rate, Ziegler is actually a better pitcher now than he was in '08, despite a slightly less awe-inspiring ERA. The righty's 2.16 mark was matched by a 2.56 FIP, so don't let that first number scare you—Ziegler is one of the most dependable arms in the bullpen business, not another low-BABIP mirage about to blow up in a slightly larger sample. The sidearmer does have to be used judiciously to get the most out of his talents, since he's terrible against left-handed hitters.

LINEOUTS

HITTERS

PLAYER	TEAM	LVL	AGE	PA	R	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB-CS	AVG/OBP/SLG	TAv	BABIP	BRR	FRAA	WARP
RF C. Gillespie	RNO	AAA	27	582	100	19	16	12	79	81	91	24-5	.300/.405/.479	.292	.343	6.2	8.3	4.4
	ARI	MLB	27	7	2	0	0	1	4	1	1	0-0	.333/.429/.833	.404	.250	0	0	0.1
C R. Hammock	RNO	AAA	34	120	18	7	1	5	21	15	17	0-0	.257/.353/.495	.281	.259	1	-0.2	0.9
RF M. Krauss	MOB	AA	23	504	69	25	6	16	65	64	123	3-3	.242/.340/.439	.272	.299	1.7	-0.8	1.5
CF R. Langerhans	RNO	AAA	31	171	23	10	2	6	23	39	31	8-1	.308/.468/.554	.338	.362	1	-3.2	1.8
	TAC	AAA	31	255	46	10	0	16	37	37	63	3-6	.313/.416/.584	.349	.372	-1.9	1.5	2.8
	SEA	MLB	31	64	6	0	0	3	6	11	22	0-1	.173/.317/.346	.267	.222	-0.4	-1.1	0.0
3B M. Mora	ARI	MLB	39	135	5	6	0	0	16	2	24	0-1	.228/.244/.276	.193	.271	-1.4	0.7	-0.5
SS C. Ransom	RNO	AAA	35	432	86	29	3	27	92	55	94	10-3	.317/.405/.629	.316	.358	3.1	3.1	4.7
	ARI	MLB	35	37	3	2	0	1	4	3	9	1-0	.152/.243/.303	.186	.174	0.5	0.6	-0.1
C K. Schmidt	RNO	AAA	26	374	47	24	3	9	45	21	66	1-3	.280/.330/.445	.252	.324	0.1	-0.7	1.3
3B R. Wheeler	MOB	AA	22	531	69	30	2	16	89	45	102	3-4	.294/.358/.465	.280	.343	-5	-1.4	1.9
LF D. Winfree	RNO	AAA	25	157	27	5	1	9	37	15	22	8-1	.321/.389/.575	.316	.315	1.4	-2.5	1.2

Right-handed-hitting outfielder **Cole Gillespie** is essentially Collin Cowgill, only almost two years older, with less center field experience, and with one fewer “I.” ☹️ You’d think **Robby Hammock**’s last name would have inspired him to try retirement by now, but the utility man seems to be a believer in the philosophy that where there’s a PA, there a way. Last season, he got two in the bigs. ☹️ Like the player he’s often been compared to, Adam Dunn, doughy Double-A outfielder **Marc Krauss** had a disappointing season, failing to repeat the home run power he showed in 2010. ☹️ **Ryan Langerhans** hit .311/.437/.573 at Triple-A and appeared in 61 games in center, but he’s amply demonstrated that he has neither the bat nor the glove to replicate that performance where it counts. ☹️ The bloom is off late-blooming **Melvin Mora**, who went homerless before earning his release in late June. We’ve likely seen the last of the 40-year-old. ☹️ There’s nothing wrong with raking in Reno, as **Cody Ransom** did, but to paraphrase Jeff Foxworthy, if that’s how you spend your age-35 season, you might be a marginal major leaguer. ☹️ **Konrad Schmidt** is a Henry Blanco injury away from being a marginal major leaguer for life. He lacks Blanco’s arm and receiving skills, but he has the body type down, and a better bat. ☹️ Unlike Bobby Borchering, **Ryan Wheeler** stands a good chance at sticking at third. His first Double-A season was a success, but his bat probably won’t break the Ryan Roberts mold. ☹️ Last season, Triple-A journeyman **David Winfree** finally found out that the key to cracking a 40-man was starting hot, then getting hurt before he could regress. We’d make a joke about his value, but his surname would steal the punchline.

PITCHERS

PLAYER	TEAM	LVL	AGE	W	L	SV	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	EqBB9	EqSO9	GB%	BABIP	WHIP	ERA	FIP	FRA	WARP
Y. Brazoban	ROU	AAA	31	3	0	1	26 ¹	23	5	11	31	3.8	10.6	42%	.277	1.29	3.42	5.10	5.49	0.1
	ARI	MLB	31	0	0	0	6	8	1	4	8	6.0	12.0	33%	.412	2.00	6.00	4.99	8.76	-0.3
Z. Kroenke	RNO	AAA	27	10	3	0	128 ¹	179	14	52	78	3.5	5.1	49%	.354	1.74	5.89	5.27	6.19	0.8
	ARI	MLB	27	0	1	0	4	6	1	1	3	2.2	6.8	67%	.357	1.75	9.00	5.49	6.54	-0.1
J. Lewis	COH	AAA	27	3	2	2	28	37	4	13	20	4.8	7.1	21%	.375	1.96	5.14	5.06	6.10	0.1
K. Mickolio	RNO	AAA	27	3	4	6	58	62	4	26	67	3.9	9.8	45%	.335	1.43	4.97	3.67	4.88	0.9
	ARI	MLB	27	0	0	0	6 ²	10	0	3	7	4.1	9.4	23%	.455	1.95	6.75	2.24	4.44	0.1
Y. Ortega	VIS	A+	24	1	0	9	39 ¹	37	3	21	58	4.8	13.3	47%	.374	1.47	4.81	3.73	5.13	0.1
M. Zagurski	LEH	AAA	28	4	0	11	54 ¹	47	3	28	65	4.5	10.4	51%	.328	1.29	2.65	3.28	4.48	0.7
	PHI	MLB	28	0	0	0	3 ¹	4	1	3	4	8.1	10.8	50%	.333	2.10	5.40	7.19	6.38	-0.1

Yhency Brazoban resurfaced after a season lost to injury and one bouncing around the minors, striking out 42 batters in 36 1/3 Triple-A frames. The Diamondbacks gave him a look after he requested his release from the Rangers, then kicked off the next leg of his world tour by selling him to the Fukuoka SoftBank Hawks in late July. ☹️ After struggling in relief at Triple-A in 2010, former lefty specialist **Zach Kroenke**’s first full season in a minor-league rotation went poorly—shocking, we know. ☹️ Once a closer candidate for the Indians, **Jensen Lewis** struggled in Columbus last season and was released in June, but he’s only 27 and was useful as recently as 2010. The Diamondbacks signed him in November, dashing our dreams that he’d become a paid spokesman for the Manhattan furniture company that bears his name. ☹️ The lesser reliever acquired in the Mark Reynolds trade, 6’9 righty **Kameron Mickolio** had high-BABIP issues for the second straight Triple-A season. Sooner or later, the strikeouts will shine through. ☹️ Six-foot-one Dominican right-hander **Yonata Ortega**’s fastball touches 98, but his scale hasn’t touched 198 in ages. A few extra pounds might not be a problem, but it’s not a great sign when you miss bats and still outweigh your strikeout-to-walk ratio. ☹️ The D-Backs acquired **Mike Zagurski** from the Phillies in late September and will give him a shot this season, which means Arizona’s strength and conditioning coordinator has his work cut out for him.

MANAGER: KIRK GIBSON

YEAR	TEAM	W-L	Pythag	Avg	100+	120+	REL w					PH	PH	SAC					POS						
			W-L	+/-	PC	P	P	OS	BOS	REL	Zero R	IBB	Subs	PH	Avg	HR	SB2	CS2	SB3	CS3	Att	SAC %	SAC	Squeeze	Swing In Play
2010	ARI	34-49	0	188.7	83	83	56	3	247	181	38	—	302	.235	0	3	1	0	1	64	84.4%	24	0	153	31
2011	ARI	94-68	1	96.9	80	0	90	6	463	375	16	—	248	.206	5	16	2	0	0	96	61.5%	26	3	306	79

In steering the low-payroll Diamondbacks from worst place to first place in the span of a single season, Gibson added another “I don’t believe what I just saw”-worthy accomplishment to his career record, though this one was a team effort that took even longer to complete than his painful trudge around the bases in the 1988 World Series. As is always the case when a skipper presides over a remarkable reversal in a team’s fortunes, even one driven by Pythagorean overperformance, it’s hard to say how much credit Gibson deserves (though the BBWAA voters didn’t hesitate to make him Manager of the Year); after all, he didn’t work any immediate miracles with the losing club he inherited from A.J. Hinch in 2010. Perhaps the highest compliment that can be paid to Gibson is that he got out of the way and let his team play. The Diamondbacks recorded the fewest sacrifice hits and handed out the fewest intentional walks in the senior circuit; Gibson called for free passes just over 20 percent as often as Atlanta’s IBB-happy Fredi Gonzalez. However, Gibson wasn’t the perfect sabermetric manager. It’s possible to find fault with Gibson’s batting orders: Willie Bloomquist was the team’s most frequent leadoff man, while Gerardo Parra, one of the team’s best hitters, usually languished in the eighth slot (when he wasn’t being pointlessly platooned with Collin Cowgill). Gibson earned plenty of praise for improving Arizona’s preparation, motivation, and clubhouse culture, the sort of intangible effects that some take on faith and others cynically dismiss as byproducts of winning instead of its cause. Now that he’s righted the ship, he’ll have plenty of time to make sure it stays afloat: Not long after his team’s exit from the NLDS, Gibson received an extension that will keep him in Arizona through at least 2014.