

2015 MLB Power Rankings

Rank	Team	My Comments
1	Washington Nationals (96-66 in 2014)	Best pitching in the game, and in today's baseball pitching wins.
2	Los Angeles Dodgers (94-68 in 2014)	This team has it all, and if they don't they have the resources to go and get it.
3	Toronto Blue Jays (83-79 in 2014)	The Blue Jays have not made the playoffs since 1993. That drought will end this season.
4	Seattle Mariners (87-75 in 2014)	The Mariners got stronger, during offseason in two areas that they already prevailed in, pitching and hitting.
5	Los Angeles Angels (98-64 in 2014)	Mike Trout, is the best player in baseball; with a good team around him.
6	St. Louis Cardinals (90-72 in 2014)	Somehow this team always finds a way to win. They will again this year.
7	Pittsburgh Pirates (88-74 in 2014)	If Mike Trout is the best player in the game, Andrew McCutchen who has been worth 27.5 Wins Above Replacement the last four seasons combined is a very close second.
8	San Diego Padres (77-85 in 2014)	The Padres made big moves this offseason binging in pitching with James Shields and power with Matt Kemp, Justin Upton, and Will Myers and Will Middlebrooks. Now, in a blockbuster just before the start of the season they have added one of the best closers in the game, Craig Kimbrel. If these additions perform up to expectations, and that is a big if, San Diego could be a great place for October baseball.
9	Detroit Tigers (90-72 in 2014)	Yes; the Tigers lost former Cy Young winner, Max Scherzer to free agency. But, they will also have former Cy Young winner David Price for a full season for the first time; and they still have Miguel Cabrera and a supporting cast that can win some games.
10	Oakland A's (88-74 in 2014)	How can the A's keep trading off great players like Josh Donnellson and losing great players to free agency like Jon Lester; and still contend? I don't know; but, watch Oakland do it again in 2015
11	Cleveland Indians (85-77 in 2014)	The Indians has some of the best young talent in baseball. They have everything needed to contend.
12	Baltimore Orioles (96-66 in 2014)	The Orioles surprised the baseball world by winning the AL East in 2014. But, things will be tougher in 2015; without the 40 HR from Nelson Cruz, and the leadership of Nick Markakis, the arm of Andrew Miller. Therefore, this season the O's will be looking for comebacks from Matt Wieters, Manny Machado, and Chris Davis. If they all can rebound and that is, a big if; Baltimore will surprise again.
13	Boston Red Sox (71-91 in 2014)	After winning it all in 2013 the wheels fell off the Red Sox bandwagon. Boston has been restocked with free agents Hanley Ramirez and Pablo Sandoval. Look for this club to make some in season moves to stay in contention.
14	Chicago White Sox (73-89 in 2014)	The White Sox is a trendy pick by many to gain a spot in the post season. They should make things interesting in the AL Central.
15	Miami Marlins (77-85 in 2014)	The Marlins are another trendy pick with over 30 games against the Braves and the Phillies; the underbelly of the NL East the trend may ring true.

16	San Francisco Giants (88-74 in 2014)	Despite winning three of the last five World Series, the Giants have not made the playoffs in an odd-numbered year since 2003. Welcome to 2015 for the 2014 champs, and with the loss of Pablo Sandoval and Mike Morse to free agency, along with Hunter Pence starting the season on the DL with a broken arm; it seems the even-odd year trend will continue.
17	Kansas City Royals (89-73 in 2014)	The Royals were the feel good story of the century. Making not only the playoff for the first time since 1985; but for a superhuman performance by the Giants' Madison Bumgarner they could have won the entire thing. However, with the loss of the bat and the leadership of DH Billy Butler and the innings of pitcher James Shields the defending American League Champion will have a difficult time repeating the success of 2014.
18	Tampa Bay Rays (77-85 in 2014)	The Rays lost their general manager (Andrew Friedman), their manager (Joe Maddon) and two of their best players (Ben Zobrist and Wil Myers). Now, they are battling a slew of injuries to their pitching staff as three of their top four starting pitchers (Matt Moore, Alex Cobb, Drew Smyly) and their closer (Jake McGee) will miss the start of the season. The Rays are going to need those pitchers to come back strong and they will need a rebound season from Evan Longoria, who hit just 22 home runs in 2014.
19	Chicago Cubs (73-89 in 2014)	It is not often that a manager is listed as a significant offseason move; but, when that skipper is Joe Maddon the hype is justified. The Cubs are building something special on Chicago's Northside. However, just like the reinventions at Wrigley Field this home improvement project will take some time despite the arrival of ace pitcher Jon Lester and the soon to be arriving rookie sensation Kris Bryant.
20	New York Mets (79-83 in 2014)	Stud pitcher, Matt Harvey is back from Tommy John surgery; and the fences at Citi Field has been moved in. The early news on Harvey is good, as he has dominated Spring Training. However, time will tell if Met hitters will be equally as dominant with their new smaller demission.
21	New York Yankees (84-78 in 2014)	The Yankees missed the playoffs for the second straight year; and as they enter the post Derek Jeter era they find themselves banking on a comeback from RHP, CC Sabathia; and a resurrection from none other than Alex Rodriguez. It has all the makings of a long baseball summer in the Big Apple.
22	Milwaukee Brewers (82-80 in 2014)	The Brewers contended for much of 2014 and then faded down the stretch. During the offseason they traded away the clubs' best pitcher in Yovani Gallardo and did not pick up much to fill the void. The key to the Milwaukee season will be if Ryan Braun can rebound from an injured thumb that hindered him in 2014.
23	Houston Astros (70-92 in 2014)	The Astros, who had a \$26.1 million payroll just two years ago, continue to build and add pieces, signing free agents infielder Jed Lowrie, outfielder Colby Rasmus, and relievers Pat Neshek and Luke Gregorson. Those deals are worth a combined \$72 million. But, the Astros are still a year or two away from getting substantial impact from their prospects and becoming a contender.
24	24. Cincinnati Reds (76-86 in 2014)	The Reds' hopes for the 2015 season rest completely on the shoulders of Joey Votto and Jay Bruce. A leg injury limited Votto to just 62 games in 2014; and Bruce hit just 18 home runs after averaging 30 per season over the previous four years.
25	Texas Rangers (67-95 in 2014)	Injury bug hit the Ranger harder than any team in the Majors in 2014. It appears in 2015 that the bug has not finished its work. Yu

		Darvish the ace of the staff has been lost for the year to Tommy John surgery from an already weak rotation. All hope is not lost as Price Fielder and Shin-Soo Choo are healthy from their encounter with the injury bug in 2014.
26	Arizona Diamondbacks (64-98 in 2014)	Tony LaRusa took over in mid-season as head of baseball operation. He is remaking the organization bringing in Dave Steward as General Manager and Chip Hale as the Manager. The roster stays much the same; but, one of holdovers is superstar first baseman Paul Goldsmith. The question is one superstar enough?
27	Minnesota Twins (70-92 in 2014)	The year has not stated well for the Twins as their prized free agent catch pitcher, Ervin Santana was hit with an 80 game PED suspension. Spoiling the return of Twins' favorite Torii Hunter.
28	Atlanta Braves (79-83 in 2014)	With the big trade with Craig Kimbrel and Melvin Upton, Jr. the Braves are firmly in full rebuild mode. Having suffering only their third losing season in the past 20 years the Braves fired General Manager Frank Ren and hired team consultant, the former Indians and Ranger GM John Hart as head of baseball operations. Hart has reshaped the organization trading away homerun hitters Justin Upton, Jason Heywood, and Evan Gattis for prospects. That leaves the major league roster with some young talent headlined by Freddy Freeman. With the core of the team of Freeman, pitchers Shelby Miller, Julio Teheran, and super shortstop Andrelton Simmons in place, this team will still lose at least 80 games. Therefore, look for more deals for prospects from the major league roster as the rebuild continues.
29	Colorado Rockies (66-96 in 2014)	The Rockies will not compete this year; everyone in Denver knows that. The teams' major hope for salvation in years to come is for Troy Tulowitzki, who has played in just 264 games over the last three seasons to get healthy. Early reports say he looks "completely healthy," and Tulo says he is regaining his confidence.
30	Philadelphia Phillies (73-89 in 2014)	The proud Phillies who won 5 straight division championships, two NL crowns and a World Series are now aging, devoid of major league ready prospects and are just plain bad. Loaded down with bad big money long term contracts the on the field product at Citizen Bank Park will be bankrupt for some time.

Baseball is one of the [8 passions of my life](#), I am so pleased to share this passion with the readers of this blog.

©2015 Marben Bland