



**Fantasy Moneyball 2013 Draft Tips
That Will Help You Win At Fantasy
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Fantasy Moneyball 2013 Draft Tips That Will Help You Win At Fantasy Baseball Fantasy Moneyball Fantasy Baseball Draft Tips

Baseball

The 2013 fantasy baseball season was a pivotal year, especially for those embracing the Moneyball philosophy. This article delves into the key strategies and undervalued players that could have propelled your fantasy team to victory in 2013, offering valuable insights applicable to future drafts. We'll explore advanced statistical approaches, player value assessment, and overall draft strategy, focusing on the principles of *fantasy Moneyball* and how they translated to successful fantasy baseball drafting in 2013. This guide will cover *undervalued players*, *advanced metrics*, and *draft strategy optimization* to help you dominate your league.

Understanding the 2013 Fantasy Baseball Landscape and the Moneyball Approach

The Moneyball approach, popularized by the Oakland A's, focuses on identifying

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undervalued players based on advanced statistics rather than relying solely on traditional metrics like batting average or home runs. In 2013, this approach was particularly crucial for fantasy success. Many players were available later in the draft who possessed statistical profiles that predicted outsized fantasy production. This meant shrewd drafters could assemble competitive teams by focusing on overlooked talents and maximizing value across various categories. For example, understanding the importance of on-base percentage (OBP) and stolen bases, rather than just home runs and RBIs, was vital for maximizing your fantasy team's potential.

Identifying Undervalued Players: The Core of Fantasy Moneyball

The beauty of a Moneyball approach lies in unearthing diamonds in the rough. In 2013, several players fit this bill perfectly. Focusing on *advanced metrics* like wOBA (weighted on-base average), BABIP (batting average on balls in play), and FIP (fielding independent pitching) could have revealed hidden gems.

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- **Focusing on On-Base Percentage (OBP):** Players with high OBPs, even without prodigious power numbers, often provide consistent run production and a high floor for your fantasy team. A player like **Jose Altuve** (who hit .290 with a .341 OBP in 2013) would have been a perfect example of a high-OBP, value-driven pick in the later rounds.
- **Stolen Bases and Speed:** Stolen bases are often overlooked. In 2013, players with significant speed could provide significant fantasy points in categories other teams might ignore. Look for players with a high success rate in stolen base attempts, as it is a high-variance category.
- **Pitching Value Beyond Wins:** Wins are a flawed metric for pitchers. A pitcher could have a high strikeout rate and low ERA (earned run average) but have a poor win-loss record due to run support. Therefore, focusing on K/9 (strikeouts per nine innings), WHIP (walks plus hits per inning pitched), and ERA were far more valuable indicators in the 2013 landscape. Finding starting pitchers with those qualities who were not highly ranked by mainstream fantasy sources would have been a Moneyball win.

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- **Late-Round Surprises:** The draft's later rounds were particularly ripe for finding players that exceeded expectations. Often, injuries or perceived weaknesses pushed these players down draft boards, making them available at a significant discount. By understanding and analyzing risk versus reward, you could've capitalized on these opportunities.

Advanced Metrics and Their Application in 2013 Fantasy Baseball Drafts

Beyond the basic batting statistics, utilizing *advanced metrics* was essential for a successful 2013 Moneyball draft. Tools and resources readily available (even then) would have allowed you to go beyond simple batting average and runs batted in.

- **wOBA:** This metric assigns different weights to various offensive events (singles, doubles, walks, etc.) to create a more comprehensive picture of a player's overall offensive contribution than traditional statistics alone.
- **BABIP:** Understanding a player's BABIP can help predict future

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performance. A consistently high BABIP could indicate unsustainable performance, while a consistently low BABIP might suggest a player is unlucky and due for regression.

- **FIP and xFIP:** These metrics for pitchers isolate what a pitcher can control (strikeouts, walks, and home runs) to give a better measure of their true pitching ability compared to ERA.

Using these advanced metrics in conjunction with traditional stats allowed you to build a more balanced and powerful team than you might with the usual suspects.

Optimizing Your Draft Strategy for a Moneyball Approach

Successfully applying a Moneyball strategy in the 2013 draft required a carefully planned approach.

- **Early Round Strategy:** Don't necessarily reach for the top-tier names; focus

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on securing value across various categories. If a top player's projected stats didn't align with their draft position according to your metrics, it might be wise to pass.

- **Mid-Round Value:** This is where the real opportunity for a Moneyball strategy shines. Players who were undervalued because of their team's perceived weakness or their own previous injury might be great value in this stage.
- **Late-Round Stashes:** Use your later picks to snag high-upside players with injury risk or inconsistent performance. A high-risk, high-reward approach can yield great returns if these players stay healthy.
- **Positional Needs:** Although finding value is key, be aware of your team's positional needs. Don't overvalue a specific player simply because they fit your roster needs if their statistical profile isn't strong.

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Conclusion: Mastering the Art of Fantasy Moneyball

Successfully applying a Moneyball strategy to your 2013 fantasy baseball draft would have required a keen understanding of advanced metrics, a willingness to identify undervalued players, and a well-defined draft strategy. By focusing on player value beyond traditional statistics and incorporating advanced analytical tools, you could have assembled a competitive team that exceeded expectations. While this article focuses on 2013, the principles of fantasy Moneyball remain relevant for future seasons.

FAQ

Q1: What are some specific examples of undervalued players in 2013 that a Moneyball strategy could have identified?

A1: Players like Jose Altuve (as mentioned above), due to his high OBP and stolen

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base potential, would have been prime targets. Similarly, pitchers with high strikeout rates but mediocre win-loss records could have been undervalued and represented excellent value. Researching players with unexpectedly high BABIP or a low ERA with a surprisingly high number of strikeouts relative to walks would have revealed similar opportunities.

Q2: How can I access advanced metrics for past seasons to inform my future drafts?

A2: Websites like FanGraphs, Baseball Prospectus, and Baseball-Reference.com offer comprehensive historical data on advanced baseball statistics. You can use these resources to analyze past player performance and identify undervalued players similar to how you might have approached the 2013 draft.

Q3: Is a purely Moneyball approach always the best strategy?

A3: While Moneyball offers a powerful framework, it's not a one-size-fits-all solution. A balanced approach that combines advanced metrics with an understanding of traditional statistics and player context is usually most effective.

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The success of a Moneyball strategy depends heavily on the scoring system of your specific fantasy league.

Q4: How important is understanding a player's context (team, ballpark, etc.) within a Moneyball approach?

A4: While statistical analysis forms the core of Moneyball, considering a player's context is vital. Park factors, team offensive strength, and the player's role within their team all influence their projected performance. Ignore these factors at your peril.

Q5: Are there any free tools available to help me analyze advanced metrics for fantasy baseball?

A5: Several websites offer free access to some advanced metrics. While full access often requires a subscription, the free data available can still provide valuable insights. Explore the free tiers of sites mentioned above and experiment with different resources to find what works best for your strategy.

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Q6: What role does risk tolerance play in a Moneyball draft strategy?

A6: A Moneyball strategy often involves taking calculated risks on players with high upside but also higher risk. Your risk tolerance should be considered. Are you willing to gamble on a player with a history of injuries in exchange for potentially superior production if healthy? This is a crucial decision to make during your draft preparation.

Q7: How can I adjust my Moneyball approach based on my league's scoring system?

A7: Different leagues prioritize different categories. A league that heavily weights stolen bases will make speed a key factor. A league emphasizing ERA and strikeouts will prioritize pitching metrics. Tailor your approach to match your league's scoring system for maximum effectiveness. Analyze your scoring system to understand what metrics you should prioritize most for your team.

Q8: How does the Moneyball philosophy apply to other fantasy sports beyond baseball?

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A8: The core principles of Moneyball – identifying undervalued players through statistical analysis and exploiting market inefficiencies – can be applied to other fantasy sports like basketball, football, and hockey. While the specific metrics differ, the fundamental strategy remains the same: leverage data to find value where others don't see it.

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The season 2013 indicated a turning point in the evolution of fantasy baseball. The influence of sabermetrics, popularized by the book and movie "Moneyball," was thoroughly integrated into the understanding of even casual participants. No longer could you simply select individuals based on name or gut feeling. To succeed in 2013, and indeed in subsequent seasons, you needed a tactical approach using advanced statistics and a deep understanding of player worth. This article will provide you with crucial knowledge and techniques to help you dominate your fantasy baseball league in the style of a true Moneyball coach.

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Understanding the 2013 Landscape:

2013 was a season of transition for many squads and individuals. Some rising stars began to glow, while established stars faced declining output. Knowing this background is vital to understanding the draft tactics that showed most fruitful.

Key Statistical Categories and Their Importance:

In 2013, as now, certain statistical categories held more weight than others. While home runs and RBIs remain important, attention should be turned to metrics like:

- **OBP (On-Base Percentage):** This metric quantifies a hitter's ability to get on base, irrespective of how they do it (hits, walks, etc.). A high OBP is suggestive of a patient hitter who provides valuable runs and maintains consistent offensive production.
- **SLG (Slugging Percentage):** This metric concentrates on a hitter's power, measuring the total bases per at-bat. While home runs are part of this, doubles and triples likewise contribute. A high SLG suggests a player with

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significant power.

- **OPS (On-Base Plus Slugging):** This is simply OBP + SLG, providing a comprehensive measure of a hitter's overall batting value. Targeting individuals with high OPS values should be a priority.
- **ERA (Earned Run Average) and WHIP (Walks plus Hits per Inning Pitched):** For pitchers, these are the two most essential statistics. A low ERA and WHIP suggest a pitcher's ability to limit runs and preserve control.

Draft Strategy: The Moneyball Approach

The core tenet of the Moneyball approach is to identify undervalued individuals. This requires thorough research and a willingness to examine athletes who may be overlooked by others.

- **Target undervalued players with high OBP and OPS:** These players may not have the flashiest numbers, but they routinely get aboard and contribute to scoring runs.

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- **Don't be afraid to draft pitchers based on WHIP and ERA, not strikeouts:** Strikeouts are exciting, but consistent output in limiting runs is more important for fantasy triumph.
- **Look beyond the top story names:** Many talented players fly under the radar. Deep statistical examination will help you discover these hidden jewels.
- **Utilize ADP (Average Draft Position):** Understanding the ADP of players allows you to identify those who are being drafted lower than their actual value dictates. This helps you exploit market flaws.

Practical Implementation Strategies:

1. **Pre-draft preparation is paramount:** Spend effort researching players, examining statistics, and familiarizing yourself with projections.
2. **Use fantasy baseball resources wisely:** Many websites offer complex quantitative study tools. Utilize these tools to enhance your understanding of

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player merit.

3. Adapt your strategy based on draft flow: If your top choice player is drafted earlier than anticipated, be ready to shift to your next-best option. Flexibility is essential.

4. Don't be afraid to exchange athletes: Once the season begins, swapping athletes can help you enhance your team's performance.

Conclusion:

Winning at fantasy baseball in the style of Moneyball requires careful planning, deep statistical comprehension, and a willingness to consider differently than the majority. By focusing on underestimated athletes with strong offensive and pitching measurements, and by modifying your tactic throughout the draft, you can dramatically increase your chances of victory in your fantasy league. Remember, it's not about fame; it's about worth.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ):

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Q1: Are there any specific 2013 players who exemplify the Moneyball strategy?

A1: Players like Mike Trout (though already a star, his value was still somewhat undervalued relative to his performance), and perhaps some undervalued pitchers with strong WHIP and ERA numbers who weren't racking up huge strikeout totals, perfectly embody the Moneyball approach.

Q2: How important is luck in fantasy baseball, even with a Moneyball strategy?

A2: Luck always plays a role. Injuries and unexpected breakouts can impact even the best-laid plans. However, a sound Moneyball strategy significantly reduces risk and increases the probability of success.

Q3: Can this Moneyball strategy be applied to other fantasy sports?

A3: Absolutely! The core principles of identifying undervalued assets based on advanced metrics and understanding underlying merit are applicable to almost any

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fantasy sport.

Q4: What resources can I use to further my understanding of advanced baseball analytics?

A4: Numerous websites, blogs, and books dedicated to baseball analytics exist. FanGraphs, Baseball Prospectus, and various sports statistics websites are excellent resources.

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