

MLB Trade Rumors holds a Free Agency Prediction contest every season, and I decided to create an entry this year. All that's required to enter is a Facebook account, so I highly encourage everyone to enter. It may be closed already (if it's still open, it's only open until the AM cycle of 11/14), so get in quickly if you're interested! If you don't have time to do that, I've provided MLBTR's predictions as well as my own, plus my reasoning behind my picks below. Feel free to agree/disagree/discuss these openly. Enjoy, and wish me luck!

Leaders: 16-for-42 (.381 "batting average")

My Picks: 8-for-42 (.190)-1,120th overall

MLBTR Staff Picks: 8-for-42 (.190)

*Last Year's Winner: 15-for-49 (.306)*

Player	MLBTR's Prediction	My Prediction	Comments
David Price <b>SIGNED W/ RED SOX, 7 YRS/\$217M</b>	Cubs	Dodgers	MLBTR likes the Cubs because of the Joe Maddon connection, but the Dodgers have cash and a history of spending it on big-name arms. Plus, I'm guessing Greinke goes elsewhere and they need a replacement.
Jason Heyward <b>SIGNED W/CUBS, 8YRS, \$184M</b>	Yankees	Cardinals	My guess is that the Cardinals are willing to pony up some cash to keep him, and that Heyward would choose 2015's best regular-season team over a bigger stage and marginally more money in the Bronx.
Zack Greinke <b>SIGNED W/DIAMONDBACKS 6YR, \$206M</b>	Dodgers	Royals	Greinke's name has come up as a possibility in connection with the Red Sox, but several sources rejected that theory based on Greinke's anxiety and desire to play for a smaller market team as a result. KC is a small-market team that Greinke is familiar with <i>and</i> they just won the Series. Seems to me like a perfect match, while LA is just a big market on a different coast than Boston.
Justin Upton <b>SIGNED W/TIGERS</b>	Nationals	Yankees	MLBTR cites the Mike Rizzo connection (scouting director who drafted Upton) as the reason for him landing in Washington. It's

			also probably a safe bet that Upton is Cashman's Plan B if they lose out on Heyward, and as I mentioned above I doubt Heyward will be in pinstripes next season.
Chris Davis SIGNED W/ORIOLES	Cardinals	Astros	"He would be a great addition to the lineup if they lose Heyward" is the analysis offered by MLBTR. If Heyward stays, they won't need to replace him and the addition of Davis makes little to no sense for St. Louis, while the Astros are re-building and Davis' 3-true-outcome tendencies fit right in with the rest of Houston's lineup.
Yoenis Cespedes SIGNED W/METS	Angels	Angels	I don't think the Mets have the cash to keep him, and he didn't seem to enjoy Boston so those two are out, but beyond that I'm trusting the experts on this one.
Jordan Zimmerman <b>SIGNED W/TIGERS, 5YRS/\$110M</b>	Blue Jays	Blue Jays	With Price gone, the Jays need an ace and Zimmerman is the best option in their price range.
Johnny Cueto <b>SIGNED W/GIANTS, 6YRS, \$130M</b>	Red Sox	Cubs	Cueto faired much better in the NL than the AL, and the Cubs could do with a solid #3 behind Arrieta and Lester.
Alex Gordon	Royals	Royals	He's been in KC his whole career, and the Royals are in the middle of a great run. If it ain't broke, don't fix it.
Ian Desmond <b>SIGNED W/RANGERS</b>	Mets	Padres	The Mets certainly make sense, as they are clearly OK moving on from Flores (see: events of July 31), but I have a sneaking suspicion that the Padres will continue their rebuilding project with another aggressive offseason, and MLBTR also connected Desmond with San Diego.
Jeff Samardija	Giants	Tigers	The list of possible suitors,

SIGNED W/GIANTS,			according to MLBTR, includes NYY, TOR, DET, SF, ARZ & HOU. Out of those SF, DET & ARZ are the only ones I haven't picked to sign someone yet. The Giants already have a solid rotation, and Arizona is rebuilding while the Tigers have a decent chance at the post-season next year. The Shark is more of a win-now piece.
Mike Leake  <b>SIGNED W/CARDINALS, 5YRS, \$80M</b>	Giants	Giants	Another pitcher who was linked to Arizona and San Francisco...MLBTR points out that San Fran has a history of locking up young guys who had played for them the previous season, and Leake is one of those guys.
Wei-Yin Chen SIGNED W/MARLINS	Tigers	Tigers	I've heard this guy's name before, but that's about it. Also, MLBTR's reasoning behind the pick makes sense to me so I'm going to roll with it.
Kenta Maeda SIGNED W/DODGERS,	Diamondbacks	Diamondbacks	Never even heard of him, so it doesn't make much sense to pick against the experts here.
Matt Wieters <b>ACCEPTED QO FROM ORIOLES</b>	Nationals	Orioles	Reports are saying that Wieters will become the 2nd player to ever accept a QO, after Rasmus.
Dexter Fowler	Mets	Cubs	MLBTR admits that a return to the resurgent Cubs makes sense for both sides, and I don't see many other teams being willing to bet on the fact that 2015 was a turning point rather than a fluke.
Daniel Murphy  SIGNED W/NATIONALS	Angels	Yankees	The Bronx Bombers love to throw money at October heroes, and Murphy was basically the second coming of Mr. October until the World Series. At this point, if Cashman was given the choice between Stephen Drew and

			Murphy, my cash would be on Murphy being the man chosen.
Scott Kazmir  SIGNED W/DODGERS,	Orioles	Padres	Of all the teams MLBTR list as possible suitors for Kazmir, the Orioles and Padres are the only ones not to appear next to a name above Kaz on my list. As I mentioned in my assessment of Ian Desmond, I expect the Padres to be aggressive again. That would mean going out to get the best available arm, which I believe will end up being Kazmir.
Ian Kennedy SIGNED W/ROYALS	Angels	Astros	I often get Kennedy and Kazmir mixed up because they're similar pitchers, and if Kazmir skips town like I expect him to, the Astros are going to need a replacement.
Yovani Gallardo  <b>SIGNED W/ORIOLES</b>	Tigers	Brewers	Gallardo's pitching stats have been so-so for the last couple years, but he can wield a bat when he needs to. That makes him more valuable to NL teams than AL ones, and it sounds like the Brew Crew may be one of the only NL squads willing to listen, if only because of their shared history.
Ben Zobrist <b>SIGNED W/CUBS, 4 YRS, \$56M</b>	Yankees	Royals	KC isn't a huge market team, so bringing in the haul of Grienke/Gordon/Zobrist in one offseason would make zero sense if two of those guys weren't already wearing royal blue...but they are, and the way this year ended hometown discounts are probably on the table
Howie Kendrick SIGNED W/DODGERS	White Sox	White Sox	MLBTR's reasoning makes sense, and if I'm right the other teams he's linked too won't have the kind of money he's looking for, or will have spent all their budgeted money for this year already.

Byung-Ho Park	Rockies	Twins	Minnesota won the bargaining rights, and I doubt they'll let that money go to waste.
John Lackey <b>SIGNED W/CUBS, 2YRS, \$32M</b>	Cubs	Cubs	Since Theo left Boston, the Cubs have become the NL version of the Red Sox, to the point where there are 3 key players (Rizzo, Lester, David Ross) that all spent time in Boston or the organization before their time in Chicago. They all seem to be enjoying the Windy City, and I expect Lackey to notice that trend as well.
Hisashi Iwakuma <b>SIGNED W/MARINERS, 1YR, ?M</b>	Mariners	Mariners	I don't know much about him, but MLBTR points out that he's getting up there in age (35) and is coming off an injury, so his market may be somewhat limited. Regardless, there is rumored to be mutual interest in another deal between himself and Seattle, so a return makes good sense.
Colby Rasmus <b>ACCEPTED QO FROM ASTROS</b>	Padres	Astros	Word of the street is that Rasmus will accept his Qualifying Offer.
Denard Span <b>SIGNED W/GIANTS</b>	Cubs	Mariners	If the Cubs re-sign Fowler, then signing Span seems a little redundant to me. Plus, Seattle's three outfielders currently on payroll are Nelson Cruz, Seth Smith & Mark Trumbo. Even a dinged up Span is a better CF than any of them.
Brett Anderson <b>ACCEPTED QO FROM DODGERS</b>	Dodgers	Orioles	"His market should resemble that of Kazmir" MLBTR write. They expect the Dodgers to re-sign him because nobody else wants to give up the pick to sign him, but the Orioles are the only team on the list of Kazmir/Anderson suitors not to sign anyone yet. In an effort

			to keep pace, I see the Orioles sacrificing a draft pick.
Marco Estrada <b>SIGNED W/BUE JAYS: 2YR, \$26M</b>	Athletics	Blue Jays	He's got a QO on the table, but the rumor mill says he's going to accept a 2-year deal with the Jays.
JA Happ <b>SIGNED W/BUE JAYS: 3YR, \$36M</b>	Royals	Angels	The Halos need pitching, and I don't think a haul of Cespedes/Wieters/Happ is out of their price range for this year. The only other team that's listed as a suitor for him is Miami, and my bet is Happ wants to go to a team in win-now mode.
David Freese <b>SIGNED W/PIRATES</b>	White Sox	White Sox	Freese's market consists of Cleveland, the Halos & the Blancos according to MLBTR. Anaheim has probably spent too much to get Freese too (see above), and the White Sox have a bigger 3B need than Cleveland
Gerardo Parra SIGNED W/ROCKIES	Nationals	Nationals	Every other team connected to Parra already has plenty of OF help or I have projected them to have spent most of their cash already
Darren O'Day <b>SIGNED W/ORIOLES, 4YR, \$31M</b>	Red Sox	Red Sox	The Boston 'pen could certainly use a little help, and the Sox haven't inked anyone on the list yet so they've got money to spend.
Joakim Soria <b>SIGNED W/ROYALS, 3YRS, \$25M</b>	Tigers	Braves	The Braves are rebuilding but they need a closer and Soria could still be a useful RP, if not closer, by the time they contend.
Austin Jackson <b>SIGNED W/WHITE SOX</b>	Rockies	Rockies	"Jackson could attempt to maximize his earnings now on multiyear deal, or rebuild value on a one-year pact." I'm guessing it's going to be Option 2, and the Coors Field Effect is a good way to boost numbers.

Tyler Clippard  SIGNED W/DIAMONDBACKS	Braves	Nationals	With Soria, the Braves have no need for Clippard. Before his stint in Oakland & New York, Clippard was in the nation's capital and I think the Nats are ready to move on from the Papelbon-as-closer experiment.
Asdrubal Cabrera <b>SIGNED W/METS, 2YRS, \$18M</b>	White Sox	Padres	MLBTR speculates that the Padres or White Sox would use him at a middle infield slot. Last year SD went OF heavy, this year I've got them focusing on their infield, with Desmond (2B) and Cabrera (SS) as two of their big name FA's.
Mat Latos  SIGNED W/WHITE SOX	Pirates	Twins	It seems to me that the Twins have made a habit of overpaying for short term deals with pitchers who have a lot of potential...and then they don't pan out (see:Erving Santana, Phil Hughes). My guess is they do it again, but this one may pan out.
Doug Fister  SIGNED W/ASTROS	Astros	Phillies	Fister in Philly would be more of a stop-gap thing than a long term solution, but with the rotation they have right now, I wouldn't be surprised if they threw a little more money at a guy like Fister than they'd otherwise be worth.
Mike Pelfrey <b>SIGNED W/TIGERS, 2YR/\$16M</b>	Royals	Phillies	After inking an ace, I don't see the Tigers or Royals going after Pelfrey, and as I just mentioned Philly could be a bit desperate for even mediocre arms.
Antonio Bastardo  SIGNED W/METS	Mariners	Cardinals	Seattle just landed Joaquin Benoit, and the only other teams linked to Bastardo are St. Louis and Minnesota. If that's true, St. Louis is the clear favorite.
Ryan Madson <b>SIGNED W/ A's, 3YR, \$22M</b>	Twins	Twins	Remember how I said the Twins have made a habit of overpaying for short term deals? A guy who

			had a good age-35 season is a great candidate for a deal like that.
Steve Pearce  SIGNED W/RAYS	Rangers	Rangers	It seems that Baltimore and Texas are the only suitors for him, and his 2015 numbers are such that I suspect his current team (Baltimore) won't want to re-up.
Shawn Kelley <b>SIGNED W/NATIONALS, 3YRS, \$15M</b>	Diamondbacks	Diamondbacks	The only comment MLBTR made about his market was "he'll be appealing to a long list of teams looking to augment the bullpen"...but there must be a reason they chose Arizona in particular, so I'm going to trust them on this one.
John Jaso  SIGNED W/PIRATES	Orioles	Mariners	From MLBTR's comments, it would seem that his market is going to be AL teams who need a DH...eliminating teams that I have projected to spend a lot, that basically leaves Baltimore or Tampa. But he had a career year in 2012 with Seattle, and it would be good to have an extra bat with a little bit of pop in the Northwest.
Chris Young (OF) <b>SIGNED W/RED SOX, 2YRS/\$13M</b>	Yankees	Rangers	It would appear that MLBTR thinks the Bombers will re-sign him, but if they ink Heyward or Upton, I don't think that'll happen. Texas is the only other possible destination mentioned.
Tony Sipp <b>SIGNED W/ASTROS, 3YR, \$18M</b>	Astros	Astros	There are reports that interest in a return to Houston is mutual, so there's a good chance a deal gets worked out.
Justin Morneau  <b>SIGNED W/ROCKIES</b>	Orioles	Orioles	My initial guess would have been Minnesota, because they also seem to be fond of Swan-Song contracts a la Tori Hunter and Morneau seems to be at that point in his career. However, if they overspend on arms like I



			predicted, they won't have the cash and Baltimore needs a part-time DH which is a role Morneau would be perfect for.
Alexi Ramirez SIGNED W/PADRES	Padres	Diamondbacks	I've already given the Padres a free-agent SS (Cabrera), so I just picked a team that's in need of one and in rebuild mode.
Rich Hill  <b>SIGNED W/ A'S, 1YR, \$6M</b>	Phillies	Red Sox	He had a great September audition for the Sox rotation, but I'm guessing he's a better fit as a long relief role in Beantown.