
MLB 30 wins ever possible again?.....

Posted by craigscarson - 2008/04/27 18:28

<http://scores.espn.go.com/mlb/players/profile?playerId=5455>

Being a baseball stat nut, it's not very often that even this early in a season that a player can be on pace for more than 30 wins.

With his 6th win today, Brandon Webb is almost on pace for 36. As good as Arizona is playing (Webb is that good too), there's a chance that 30 is within reach (probably a 2-3% chance; but that's more than I think I've seen in my lifetime). Chances are slim but I'd love to see it.

Denny McLain 31 1968 (before I was born)

Steve Stone 25 1980

Bob Welch 27 1990

Re:MLB 30 wins ever possible again?.....

Posted by CougarPeasant - 2008/04/27 18:58

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That would be exciting. With steroids mostly gone from baseball perhaps the pitching will return to pre-steroid levels of performance. (I know, even pitchers were on 'roids, but 'roids seem to benefit the hitters more than the pitchers.)

One reason why pitching was so dominant in the '60's was the pitcher's mound was about 6" higher than it is today.

Re:MLB 30 wins ever possible again?.....

Posted by imuakahuku - 2008/04/27 20:19

craigscarson wrote:

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Check out Cliff Lee from the Indians.

<http://sports.espn.go.com/mlb/players/profile?playerId=5353> He gets the start tomorrow against the hated Yanks who rested a lot of starters today so he will probably face all the usual stars. I could see them sitting Giambi and Matsui against him except that they sat today so they will be in there tomorrow. If he wins that game he could have a big year with the boost of confidence it will provide.

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Re:MLB 30 wins ever possible again?.....

Posted by craigscarson - 2008/04/27 20:23

imuakahuku wrote:

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I picked up Lee off waivers on my fantasy squad- so far so good.

Cliff benefits from not being the #1 guy too. With Sabathia returning to form, Carmona having great stuff, etc. Lee has a good chance to win games due to not having to overpitch because of what the other teams #1 pitcher will bring on a given day.

The Tigers are starting to hit now, that's a scary division.

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Re:MLB 30 wins ever possible again?.....

Posted by WACoug - 2008/04/27 20:30

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A little off topic but I always found it amusing that the accepted, technical, and "official" term in baseball jargon for a pitcher's skill and pitch arsenal is....."stuff". Maybe it's because I find it ironic coming from a subculture that generally considers baseball a very cerebral game.

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Re:MLB 30 wins ever possible again?.....

Posted by Conosticator - 2008/04/27 20:32

craigoscarson wrote:

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With the five man rotations they use now days (and the resulting fewer starts), probably not. Plus there are a lot fewer pitching into the later innings so their wins become much more dependent upon the relief pitchers and closer. Getting 30 wins now is much more of a complete bullpen effort than ever before.

BTW: I believe McLain had 28 complete games during that 1968 season.

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Re:MLB 30 wins ever possible again?.....

Posted by loonmj - 2008/04/28 01:32

I would love to see a pitcher win 30, but it's nearly impossible in this age of 5-man rotations, bullpen specialists, and emphasis on pitch counts. To emphasize the difference between 4-man and 5-man rotations, Denny McClain made 41 starts when he went 31-6 in 1968. His 37 decisions were more than Brandon Webb's career high of 35 starts in 2004. To win 30, Webb would obviously have to stay healthy and not miss a single start, pitch exceptionally well, and get incredibly lucky in two areas where he has (almost) no control: run-support and bullpen. Unfortunately, I'd say the chances are closer to .002-.003% than 2-3%.

By the way, here's an interesting little article on pitch counts.

<http://www.hardballtimes.com/main/article/what-pitch-counts-hath-wrought/>

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Re:MLB 30 wins ever possible again?.....

Posted by BoiseBYU - 2008/04/28 16:29

I'm a Dodger fan through and through, and so when the Dbacks take it to my Dodgers, it hurts...but you got to recognize talent when it is out there and Webb is something special. He is flat out the best. But can he win 30? Even if he is healthy the whole year, given the Dbacks 5 man rotation, he will get perhaps 32 or so. I doubt he can win 30 of 32 starts, but man would that be something if he did...While he may not win 30, maybe he will be the first to never lose....now THAT would be something too

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Re:MLB 30 wins ever possible again?.....

Posted by Conosticator - 2008/04/28 17:36

loonmj wrote:

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As I pointed out previously, 28 of McLain's 31 wins came when he pitched a complete game. Last year, for example, the Tigers had something like 3 or 4 complete games from the entire staff.

Even going seven strong innings doesn't do you record any good if the bullpen can't close it out. McLain solved that problem very well, but coaches now days (with all the long term contracts) hope to get more than just a couple of good years out of a pitcher's arm. Winning 30+ games is now mainly a team effort.

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Re:MLB 30 wins ever possible again?.....

Posted by loonmj - 2008/04/28 21:58

Agreed: winning 30+ games is now mainly a team effort. Sorry, but I don't know how to quote a section.

One thing going against Webb is the D-backs' lack of a lights-out closer. Though I love seeing local guys do well, Brandon Lyon (Taylorsville HS, Dixie SC) isn't in the top echelon of closers. He's a good closer, but you wouldn't confuse him with Papelbon or Rivera (I feel dirty; I hate both the Red Sox and Yankees), or J.J. Putz last year (that's better; go M's). http://www.cougarblue.com/images/fbfiles/images/M__s_Jays_copy.jpg

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Webb 7-0 now, 25-30 wins?

Posted by craigocarson - 2008/05/03 17:45

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7-0 now

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Re:MLB 30 wins ever possible again?.....

Posted by Conosticator - 2008/05/03 21:27

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Right on!!!! :)

Re:MLB 30 wins ever possible again?.....

Posted by Cougfan84 - 2008/05/04 00:00

I'm a huge Rockies fan so I see the D-Backs many times a season. I can honestly say that Webb has the stuff to win 30 games! His stuff is so wicked and near impossible to hit! If the D-Backs don't win the world series this year i'd be shocked...They are stacked on offense and Their pitching is lights out (Though their bullpen isn't as stacked as last year, its still decent). Brandon Webb, Dan Haren, The Big Unit, and Micah Owings all in the same rotation...they are only one more Ace from a rotation full of Aces...I think each one of those could be the #1 guy in most rotations (The big unit is out of his prime though, but in his prime he was scary!! And Owings is up and coming and can play any position and hit really well too...) I fear what was once known as the "Baby Backs" Don't be shocked if they go on a world series spree the way the Yanks did for 4 years to close the 90s...
