

Pitching Rotation:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|------|---|------------------|---|---|-----------------|------------|------------|------|---|---|---|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------|-----|---|---|---|---|
| Apr (19) | | | Jul (21) | | | Oct (22) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1-4 (5) | NBO | C | L | Z | Y | X | 1-5 | @MUN | C | L | Z | Y | W | 1-4 | @LV | W | Y | C | Z | | |
| 6-8 (9) | @MAR | W | C | L | X | | 6-9 (10) | @FO | C | L | Z | Y | X | 5-9 | @MLR | L | W | Y | C | Z | |
| 10-12 (13) | @KAN | Z | Y | W | X | | 11-14 | DET | W | C | L | Z | | 10-14 | TAY | L | W | Y | C | Z | |
| 14-17 (18) | @TAY | C | L | Z | Y | X | 15-18 | BRO | Y | W | C | L | | 15-18 (19) | BH | L | W | Y | C | X | |
| 19-23 (24) | MID | W | C | L | Z | Y | X | 19-22 (23) | MLR | Z | Y | W | C | X | | 20-23 | HUD | Z | W | Y | L |
| May (21) | | | Aug (20) | | | Nov (20) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1-5 | KNX | C | L | Z | Y | W | 1-4 | @RYE | Z | Y | W | C | (1) 2-6 | @HUD | X | C | W | Z | Y | L | |
| 6-9 (10) | COL | C | L | Z | Y | X | 5-8 (9) | @GOH | L | Z | Y | W | X | 7-10 | MUN | C | W | Z | Y | | |
| 11-14 | @WHT | W | C | L | Z | | 10-13 | @KNX | C | L | Z | Y | 11-13 (14) | MAR | L | C | W | X | | | |
| 15-18 (19) | @GC | Y | W | C | L | X | 14-17 | DAL | W | C | L | Z | 15-18 | KAN | Z | Y | L | W | | | |
| 20-23 | @CAY | Z | Y | W | L | | 18-21 (22) | NW | Y | W | C | L | X | 19-22 (23) | @NBO | Z | Y | L | N | X | |
| Jun (19) | | | Sept (20) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1-4 (5) | MAR | C | L | Z | N | X | 1 (2) | ASG | X | X | | | Cain | 32 | | | | | | | |
| 6-8 | KAN | W | C | L | | | 3-5 | NBO | W | Y | C | | gaLlardo | 33 | | | | | | | |
| 9-11 | @NBO | Z | N | W | | | 6-9 | @MAR | Z | L | W | Y | | GonZalez | 32 | | | | | | |
| 12-16 (17) | @ZIO | C | L | Z | N | W | X | 10-13 | @KAN | C | Z | L | W | | LYnn | 29 | | | | | |
| 18-21 | HUD | C | L | Z | W | | 14-17 (18) | @MID | Y | C | Z | L | X | | Wainwright | 32 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | 19-23 | FO | W | Y | C | Z | L | | Norris | 5 | | | | | |

Emergency Lineups: (I will send monthly instructions. I may just tell you to use these lineups, but please wait for confirmation.)

vs. LHP
Boards and Computer
LINEUP L1

- SS Carroll
- CF Gonzalez
- 3B Wright
- DH Gomes
- LF Hairston
- RF J Upton
- C Wieters
- 2B Weeks
- 1B Murphy

v. RHP (alternate use of R1 with R2)
Boards and Computer
LINEUP R1

- CF Gonzalez
- 2B Murphy
- 3B Wright
- 1B Votto
- DH Napoli
- RF J Upton
- LF B Upton
- C Wieters
- SS Carroll

Injury Replacement/Depth Chart:

- C: Wieters, Napoli, Mesoraco
- 1B: Votto, Murphy, Napoli, Betemit, Thome
- 2B: Weeks, Murphy, Carroll, Hechavarria, Wright, Tulowitzki, Betemit, Hairston
- SS: Carroll, Tulowitzki, Hechavarria, Wright
- 3B: Wright, Hechavarria, Carroll, Tulowitzki
- OF: Gonzalez (CF), J. Upton (CF), B Upton (CF), Hairston (CF), Gomes, Betemit

PLAYER BIOS/USAGE INFORMATION: here's a position-by-position look at the Possum:

Catcher: Primarily Wieters, but periodic appearances by Napoli.

1st base: Almost always Votto vs RHP, with Murphy and Napoli filling in the rest.

2nd base: A loose platoon between Weeks (vs. LHP and + Ctl pitchers) and Murphy (vs. RHP and neg. Ctl pitchers)

Shortstop: Lots of Carroll, with Tulowitzki and Hechavarria sharing the backup role

3rd base: Almost always Wright.

Outfield: Gonzalez is the primary CF, with the Uptons on the corners. But Hairston/Gomes will get a lot of work here too.

DH: A revolving door: some Thome, some Hairston/Gomes when not in the OF, some Napoli, maybe even some Betemit or Weeks/Murphy.

OFFENSIVE STRATEGY:

Pinch-hitting: There are enough mix-and-match positions on this team, and more than enough games coverage, that you can deploy just about any asset off the bench if an opportunity presents itself.

Pinch-running: Most days you will find at least one of B. Upton, Weeks/Murphy, or Hechavarria available to pinch-run. All have nice Spd ratings, and all but Hechavarria are SB threats.

Steal: We have a number of guys who can pick their spots to run, generally in 5th inning or later. **Check H&R first before 7th inning!!**

- B. Upton can steal anytime, score -2 to +3, 0 or 1 out, when SSN > 27. Limit two attempts per series.
- Gonzalez, Weeks and J. Upton can steal anytime after 4th, score -2 to +3, 0 or 1 out, when SSN > 27. Limit one attempt per series.
- Anyone else can steal as tying/lead run in 7th or later, 0 out, SSN 28 or greater. Limit once per player per series.

Hit & Run: Not a strength this year. Batters: Wieters, Carroll, Murphy, Weeks, Hechavarria. Runners: any runner with adjusted SSN over 21 and SBAs remaining. H&R any inning, 0 or 1 out, pitcher CTL -14 or better (no W in BBW).

Sacrifice: Generally only the #9 spot in the lineup will sacrifice. They can sacrifice in the following conditions:

- ANY inning if 1st & 2nd 0 out, score -2 or better.
- 6th or later if 2nd only, 0 out, score -2 or better.
- 6th or later, 1st only, 0 out, and H&R/steal not in order., score -1 to +2
- Don't squeeze!

Baserunning: Generally, go with 28 or more chances, hold 19 or less. Otherwise see Adams Tables. With 3/4/5 in lineup due up next, add 2 to all needed chances. With 8/9 batters up, subtract 3. With two outs, score on 11 chances or more. **Computer game: go when the announcer says the runner is "well around" the base, hold when runner is "rounding" the base. When runner is "around" the base, try to score:**

- with 0 out only if (OF Arm - Runner Speed) < 15
- with 1 out if (OF Arm - Runner Speed) < 25
- 2 out if (OF Arm - Runner Speed) < 30.

DEFENSIVE STRATEGY:

Defensive replacements: after POR bats in top 7th, score +1 to +4: (any fielder to be replaced can stay in another inning if due up in the 8th)

- Hechavarria/Tulowitzki (whichever active) to SS, moving Carroll from SS to 2B.
- BUpton to LF for Gomes or Hairston.

Outfield throws: Throw for lead runner if < 34 chances. Otherwise hold trailing runners. Do not throw for lead runner if he is not tie/lead run, and other runner's chances are 5+ lower. In 7th or later and score is +/-2, always throw for lead runner. Always hold trailing runner if he is tying run (i.e. POR +2). **Computer game: throw for lead runner UNLESS he's "well around" and is non-slow; or trailing runner is tying run.**

Infield In: Three cases:

- Runner on 3rd only: 0 or 1 out, 6th or later, POR +1 to -4.
- Runners on 1st and 3rd: 8th or later, 0 out, POR 0 to -4
- 2nd & 3rd or bases full: only if winning run on 3rd, 9th or later, 0 or 1 out. (1 out, bases full, play deep if batter has 2+ 24s)

Pitch from stretch with runner on 3rd: Only if game within one run in 8th or later, adj. SSN > 11, and two outs.

Hold runner on 1st: Always with PR hitter up. Otherwise, only if score is +/-3, and adj. SSN > 22.

Intentional walk: 8th or later, Possum -2 to 0, 1st is open, and it makes sense (i.e. enough inferior batters coming up to end inning). If IBB will load bases, pitcher must have +16 control or better.

Steal throws: Always throw on single steal unless effective SSN is 36 or higher. Throw for lowest SSN on multiple steals, except throw for lead runner if tying/winning run in 7th or later regardless of SSN.

MANAGING THE PITCHING STAFF:

Removing Starters: SP are the strength of the team, but so is the bullpen... which creates options, but leads to some tough decisions.

The very good: (Cain, Gonzalez): combination of good grades and reasonable fatigue ratings should allow this group to take a run at the 7th inning more often than not. That doesn't mean they have to get there, though. If the game is in doubt and a jam arises in the 6th, you don't automatically have to make a move, but should at least consider it based on matchups, etc.

The merely good: (Lynn, Gallardo, Wainwright, Norris): this group will require a slightly shorter leash. They will also look to get into the 7th, like their friends above, but will more frequently fall short. When the jam arises in the 6th, unlike the aces above, these guys don't get the benefit of the doubt. Similarly, if they escape the 6th but the dangerous part of your lineup is coming up in a tight game in the 7th, or the platoon matchups are unfavorable, we're not opposed to letting the pen start the 7th before these SPs start a fire.

Using the Bullpen: This is a deep and diverse collection of arms and grades, so hopefully there is an alternative for most if not all situational needs here.

Closer: Huston Street. Strictly a 9th-inning option, only in save situations, max 1 IP/appearanc. If he blows it, pull him. Frieri/Oliver can also handle the 9th if a need arises (Street has pitched couple of days in a row, etc.)

Primary RH setup: Ernesto Frieri. He should work sometime in the 7th/8th when we lead, mix and match with Oliver based on lineup position, etc.

Primary LH setup: Darren Oliver is the southpaw counterpart to Frieri. Neither of these setup options has a ton of innings, so just spread the work between them as it makes sense.

Middle: Jeremy Affeldt (L), Joe Smith (R), Brandon Lyon (R) and Joaquin Benoit (R) provide the bulk/middle relief. Three of the four should be active each month. In the group, the only really problematic peripheral is Benoit's HR rating, so avoid using him in situations where the HR would be particular painful. In all, this group should be fairly effective as a tag-team to reach the setup guys or occasionally the closer directly..

Mop/long man: We're not really carrying one to start the year, so just let the middle-men absorb innings in blowouts, and spread the work around.

CONCLUSION: That's it from Portland. This is a very talented team, mostly we are just asking the home manager to get out of their way and let them do their thing. We'll see how that works out.... ***Good luck to all!***