



Center Field – Andruw Jones, Atlanta

Last year Carlos Beltran won the award with Andruw Jones coming in second. This year Jones returned the favor, tipping the scales at 86 points to 80 for Beltran. Jones and Beltran both have great range, but it was probably Jones' intimidating throwing arm that swayed the voters. It's interesting that just a year ago Jones seemed to be slipping slightly from the consensus best center fielder he was a few years before. Perhaps we should also crown him "Comeback Fielder of the Year."



Right Field – Alex Rios, Toronto

Where's Ichiro? In center field this year, that's where. He came in third behind Jones and Beltran. Last year's runner-up in right field, Alex Rios, takes over Suzuki's vacated spot. It was a strong battle between three great right fielders, as Rios scored 73 points to 66 each for Austin Kearns and Jeff Francoeur.



Catcher – Yadier Molina, St. Louis

Move over, Pudge. Last year, Ivan Rodriguez and Yadier Molina were neck-and-neck in the battle for the Fielding Bible Award at catcher as they were named first or second on nearly every ballot. Molina maintained his incredible performance controlling the running game in 2007 throwing out 50% of would-be base stealers. Rodriguez' drop from 46% last year to 29% this year convinced our voters to bestow the award on Molina.



Pitcher – Johan Santana, Minnesota

Oh my! The winner of last year's first Fielding Bible Award (and 16 of the last 17 National League Gold Gloves) has been dethroned. Greg Maddux finished a close second but it was Johan Santana who won his first award for defensive excellence. The voting was exceptionally interesting. Five voters, plus all three tie-breakers, had Maddux in first place on their ballots. But then, one voter placed him tenth while two others (including Bill James) didn't rank him in their top ten at all. Why is that? The answer lies in how much emphasis each voter puts on a pitcher's control over the running game. Base stealers have always had their way with Maddux, and 2007 was no exception as 37 of 39 attempts were successful against him. Johan Santana, on the other hand, has always been one of the best in baseball in this area. Base stealers were not only caught more often (45% vs. 5% for Maddux), but Santana held runners on so much better that they attempted to steal far less often (only 11 attempts against Santana versus 39 against Maddux).