MLB POWER RANKINGS

After the Phillies devastating loss to the Diamondbacks and gave the baseball community a World Series no one saw happening, the Rangers vs the Diamondbacks, I took a chance to review some stats heading into the series. I’ve analyzed swings, hard hit ratings, pitching stats as well and have built a power rankings list for both teams, and both pitchers and hitters featuring the top 10 from either team. Here they are.

The Hitter Power Rankings…

1. Ketel Marte - he has a 16 game postseason hitting streak… what do you want me to say? Is he the best player on this list, no! Is he going to single handedly win you a series? No! But he has hit the most consistent and the best out of any of these players this postseason. Marte gets hits, he doesn’t walk often. He hits well with two strikes. He’s hitting .358 this postseason and has scored 6 runs. Marte is the best player on the D-Backs right now. He’s the best hitter in the series right now. I don’t care what people say, Marte is my pick for number 1 dangerous hitter. Not to mention that in 14 at bats against Texas this season, he’s hitting .429.

2. Corey Seager - Seager has been the most consistent hitter on the Rangers. Yes, Garcia has been the most explosive, but Seager has been great. He’s hitting .333 with a .483 on base percentage, the dude is hard to get out. 8 of his 15 hits have been extra baggers, too. He isn’t going to steal on you, but he’s going to hit you, that’s a fact. He’s hit .267 against Arizona this year but has a .333 against Gallen and a .667 against Ginkel. Yikes.

3. Adolis Garcia - one word. Explosive. Garcia is the heart and soul of this Rangers team, and he knows it. When he gets going, the whole team does. He’s hitting .327 this postseason with 7 homers. Yeah, 7. The most on Arizona in the postseason is Alek Thomas with 4. If there’s one guy on Texas you have to stop, it’s Garcia. Luckily for Arizona, Garcia is hitting .179 against D-Backs pitching this season. His success came against Paul Sewald and Slade Cecconi who hasn’t pitched much at all in the postseason. That’s good news for the Diamondbacks.

4. Evan Carter - it’s hard to believe Carter is a rookie. Even harder to believe he was only called up mere months ago. He was called up in September and has just mashed the ball since arriving. He’s played great defense as well. In the postseason that didn’t change. He’s slashing .308/.449/.538. A lower batting average but an OBP close to Seager. He has looked more consistent than his rookie counterpart Corbin Carroll, so I had to give him the nod at 4. I wouldn’t want to face Carter in a pinch. The Diamondbacks also have a large amount of righty pitchers, so expect to see the lefty hitting Carter starting most games this World Series.

5. Corbin Carroll - is Corbin Carroll better than Evan Carter, yes. Is Corbin Carroll better than Ketel Marte? Yes. Do I think we saw the real Corbin Carroll in game 7? Absolutely, but it doesn’t take away the 6 games before that. Carroll was slumping, but he’s back now. The guys above him have been consistently good this postseason. If Carroll can be consistent, he would easily be my number 1 or 2 on this list. I’m 9 at bats this season against the Rangers pitching, Carroll is hitting .667. He hasn’t faced Montgomery, but with his ability to hit well against lefty pitchers, I think Carroll will be his usual self; getting on base and stealing bases.

6. Mitch Garver - he’s been clutch this postseason. He hits well with runners on base, only struck out 6 times in 34 at bats, Garver is going to put the ball in play. He’s had success against Gallen this season but not much against any other pitchers on Arizona. With him getting hit in the forearm in the ALCS, I’m expecting him to bounce back and being fine at the plate. Garver is a spark plug and can’t be overlooked in this lineup.

7. Josh Jung - another. freakin. rookie. Jung had a good rookie season, and has turned it up in the postseason about 20 points higher on his batting average and the extra base hits keep coming. Jung strikes out quite a bit which I don’t like against a strikeout heavy pitching staff like Arizona. He sees Pfaadt well but that’s it on Arizona’s pitching staff.

8. Gabriel Moreno - Moreno is yet ANOTHER rookie on this list. He’s an impact player. He does the small things well and can execute on defense. His BABIP is .321 while his BA is .279. When Moreno puts the ball in play, good things happen. He looked more mature at the plate as the series went on in Philly, so I’m hoping for Arizona that he can continue to see the ball well. In 12 at bats against Texas this season he has a .167 batting average. He’s 0-3 against Montgomery. The D-Backs are hoping he can turn it around against the Rangers in the World Series.

9. Marcus Semien - Semien has fallen from the top this postseason and it’s because of a lack of production. That doesn’t mean he isnt a scary hitter because he is. Other guys have just shown up more when it matters. He hit well against the starters for Arizona in the regular season and only struck out 5 times in 42 at bats against them. The big outfields of Arizona and Texas will help him, IF he puts the ball on play. He’s grounded into 8 double plays this postseason and has a batting average of .192. Can Arizona contain him still or will he breakout? Texas his hoping he starts rallying.

10. Geraldo Perdomo - Perdomo hit .246 in the regular season but is hitting .278 in the postseason. He’s been caught stealing twice this postseason and Heim has a good arm behind the plate. While Perdomo can take walks, he isn’t the biggest problem on the bases. The Texas pitchers need to attack Perdomo, and they’ll be alright. His batting average skyrockets to .364 when he puts the ball in play (BABIP) so getting swings and misses is a big thing against Perdomo.

11. Jonah Heim - while Heim doesn’t slug as much as Gurriel, Heim gets on base more often. He’s more willing to take a walk and get on base than the swing heavy Gurriel. In this series, you’ll need base runners. That’s partially why I’m putting Heim above Gurriel. The other reason is because of Heims catching ability. He’s going to need to be dominant behind the plate to stop the D-Backs from stealing. He’s going to be pivotal in the defensive scheme for Texas.

Honorable Mention. Lourdes Gurriel, Jr. - he sees Eovaldi well, has a career .261 batting average against the Rangers pitching and has speed on the base paths. Okay, some speed. He can steal if needed. He could have been at number 11 on the list but Heim’s on base percentage is better, and what happens when you get on base? Take it from Moneyball… You score more runs.

The Pitcher Power Rankings…

1. Jordan Montgomery - Even though Monty doesn’t get the game 1 start, he’s been the best pitcher this postseason, featuring a 2.16 ERA in five games pitched and four starts. He’s given up two home runs in 25 innings, so against a good hitting team he can be susceptible to that. However, in Monty’s career in the postseason he’s only given up 2 home runs over 31 innings. His career postseason ERA is under two at 1.99. To say the least Montgomery is a dawg. He gets my number 1 power ranking even though it’s close.

2. Nathan Eovaldi - Game 1 starter announced for the Rangers and it isn’t surprising. Eovaldi has been a mainstay here in Texas this year and has been great. His second career best WAR of 3.1 and a postseason ERA of 2.42 is nice out of your game 1 starter. The Arizona lineup is so young that only three players have experience hitting against Eovaldi which could help him get ahead early in counts. You don’t want to let Eovaldi get ahead early. If the Diamondbacks get behind, Eovaldi is going to have a lot of success this series.

3. Merrill Kelly - Kelly has had a lot of success against Texas and in Arlington during his career, including a start in Arlington in 2020 in which he had a no-hitter through 6 innings. The current Rangers lineup hasn’t had much success against him either. Pair that with a very good postseason run so far, Kelly is a tough guy to face. He’s the best starter the Diamondbacks have right now.

4. Brandon Pfaadt - the rookie hasn’t looked like a rookie this postseason. He’s looked calm, confident, and overall just good. To come in against a Phillies lineup in game 7 after already shutting them down, and honestly shutting them down again was epic. Pfaadt has gained a lot of trust in his locker room, especially after a regular season that was a rollercoaster. If I’m Torrey Lovullo, I might give him the ball in game 2 so I have him prior to game 7 and then he can come into the game from the bullpen if needed. A stat to look out for though is during the regular season the Rangers hit .474 against Pfaadt, but like I said before, this isn’t the regular season and Pfaadt isn’t that same pitcher.

5. Paul Sewald - the best bullpen arm for either team this season, and there have been a few great ones. Sewald really shut the Phillies down and did so in convincing fashion. He’s 6 for 6 on save opportunities in the playoffs. If Sewald comes in during a clean inning, I don’t think you’re scoring against him. That’s also including the fact the only starter on Texas who has a batting average over .100 against Sewald is Adolis Garcia.

6. Kevin Ginkel - this might be recency bias but what Ginkel did in game 7 against the Phillies was incredible. 5 outs and 3 coming via the strikeout. Even giving up one hit would have ensured a flip in the batting order and having to face a lethal hitter in Kyle Schwarber. Ginkel got it done, and he has for the majority of the postseason. With little to go off of with his experience against the Rangers hitters, he takes this spot over Jose Leclerc for his recent dominance.

7. Jose Leclerc - this one was tough for me. Leclerc has been good in the postseason, even after letting up a home run in game 7 to Jose Altuve. It was garbage time at that point but shows that he’s beatable. Altuve is also just a really good hitter. For Leclerc to be above Ginkel, he would have had to shut that inning down.

8. Zac Gallen - Gallen is below a few bullpen arms here for a reason. In the postseason, he has looked short of his regular season self. An ERA over 5, granted he pitched against a lefty heavy team like the Phillies. That doesn’t give me anything to go off of though because Pfaadt and Merrill Kelly both pitched well against that lineup. The Diamondbacks lost their game to the Rangers when Gallen started, winning the other three. In that game Gallen didn’t walk anyone but gave up seven hits and three runs across five innings. Now, if Gallen can find his form this series, the D-Backs would have a SCARY three headed starting rotation. Yikes for any lineup, even one as good as the Rangers.

9. Josh Sborz - Sborz has been added to the Rangers circle of trust this postseason. He has shown up when needed most and gotten crucial outs. Despite the Diamondbacks hitting .300 against him in 10 at bats, I think Sborz is up for the challenge this postseason. His WHIP is down from 1.15 in the regular season to an insane .69. With a run heavy team like Arizona, the less guys on base the better. If Sborz can continue to dwindle baserunners, he should have success against Arizona.

10. Ryan Thompson - it was tough to choose between Thompson or Chapman for the 10th spot here. However, as a Cubs fan, I remember game 7 Chapman and it saddened me. Just kidding, Chapman was great in the series prior to game 7. This is another recency bias for me. Thompson was exceptional against the Phillies and had a four out outing in game 7 when the D-Backs needed him most. Thompson has also thrown four more innings than Chapman, even though Chapman had the better ERA. In this series, I think Thompson is going to be more important, which is why I’m making him tenth over Chapman.

Honorable Mention. Aroldis Chapman

While I’m leaving Jon Gray AND Max Scherzer off of this list based off of recency bias, the Rangers have two really solid arms in those two guys. I’m considering Scherzer as my X-Factor here because if he can have a solid start, two if needed, the Rangers would find themselves in a great position to win the World Series.

This World Series is going to be fun to watch with so many young and talented players involved. I think Corbin Carroll and Evan Carter will play massive roles in their rookie years. Jung and Moreno as well. The young pitching staff in Arizona has a big challenge against a very good hitting team. The Rangers have to be careful of the running ability the D-Backs have. Whatever happens this series, the talent is there on both sides to make it entertaining. October baseball is the best baseball.

*These power rankings utilized stats pulled from* [*MLB.com*](http://mlb.com/?fbclid=IwAR0OTTdPxHaYAupVRRWBfmqyaVtV7ew0bS-vPFPmMxnJM7bPHTjZwtopN2A) *and* [*ESPN.com*](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2FESPN.com%2F%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR2iftzTqc2QHEdSfB3-MNkmWCp94omoNNihahIf497cxrhVDdgWH_WQnFs&h=AT3GPVtOosvRN4Jm_7IoYs4BrkKpdJoRu3-efho4RxJ609C6BQbu-5B6yjeEEyE19_6ROZVeci-UjqGp9XRX-77vRDh7z3Tuz_ksY1W_MGRCvNKPQJ5MvTgdoQpTswzwUVea&__tn__=-UK-R&c%5b0%5d=AT3KnHsdyaOWcuNcMogHgEA0DtDOQpw1FUDeX96awjYfADrkkzIAXIs7YNDvuP5p_WnR7qHM5eRC4XxcwEgGKTOUsunc_69PZYXBH_wNReHyvs9-0uw9y7E8vEo4t75V6WEmArc6IO8gO2-XKoUWcjhcfxNRu2YLcy7uTwJEBr0z1ddf7_AyjDWx876HrrrGG7-EdX55tssn8g) *updated on October 26th, 2023*.