

SPORTS

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Hunting for hidden gems

BY KYLE STACK • Special to amNewYork

Fantasy baseball owners on the prowl for a leg up on the competition always should check league ownership percentages. Some productive players get lost in the shuffle and a routine percentage check can bring them to light.

FantasyReality

Jonny Gomes, OF, Cincinnati Reds

Ownership: CBS (43%), ESPN (70%), Yahoo (37%)



Gomes

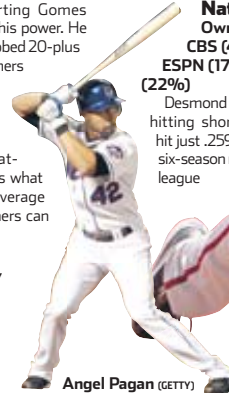
Fantasy owners are accustomed to spot-starting Gomes for his power. He clubbed 20-plus homers

three times from 2005-09, but he did so while maintaining an unhealthy .243 batting average. That's what makes his .299 average so refreshing: Owners can start him at liberty.

Angel Pagan, OF, Mets

Ownership: CBS (49%), ESPN (46%), Yahoo (27%)

Fantasy owners



Angel Pagan (GETTY)

can no longer wait for Carlos Beltran. Considering he won't come back from surgery on his right knee until July at the earliest, snag Pagan. His .291 batting and 10 steals make him one of only four National League outfielders with that versatility.

Ian Desmond, SS, Washington Nationals

Ownership: CBS (49%), ESPN (17%), Yahoo (22%)

Desmond is a top-10 hitting shortstop. He hit just .259 during a six-season minor-league



Ian Kennedy (GETTY)

career, yet he's batting .278 through his first 260-plus major league at-bats.

Carlos Ruiz, C, Philadelphia Phillies

Ownership: CBS (39%), ESPN (4%), Yahoo (14%)
Ruiz's .300 batting aver-

age makes him one of just four catchers with at least 130 at-bats to achieve that hitting mark. Ruiz has built his batting average by drawing 22 more walks than fellow under-owned catcher Ronny Paulino (.308 batting average), in just 21 plate appearances.

Colby Lewis, SP, Texas Rangers

Ownership: CBS (81%), ESPN (60%), Yahoo (59%)

CBS owners seem to understand what those in other leagues do not — that a 1.19 WHIP and 8.5 K/9 rate are hard to come by. Lewis has had a few dents in his armor lately, but he looks to be a very good spot-start option at home, where he has three wins in four starts.

Ian Kennedy, SP, Arizona Diamondbacks

Ownership: CBS (73%), ESPN (27%), Yahoo (34%)

The former Yankee has made a name for himself in the desert, where he has earned a 1.20 WHIP and 25 strikeouts in 25 innings over four starts.

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