



# ORIOLES

(2006 salaries not available)

Jorge Arangure Jr.'s pitching analysis and projected rotation

**1**  
RHP  
Rodrigo  
Lopez

**2**  
LHP  
Erik  
Bedard

**3**  
RHP  
Kris  
Benson

**4**  
RHP  
Daniel  
Cabrera

**5**  
LHP  
Bruce  
Chen

**CL**  
CLOSER  
Chris  
Ray

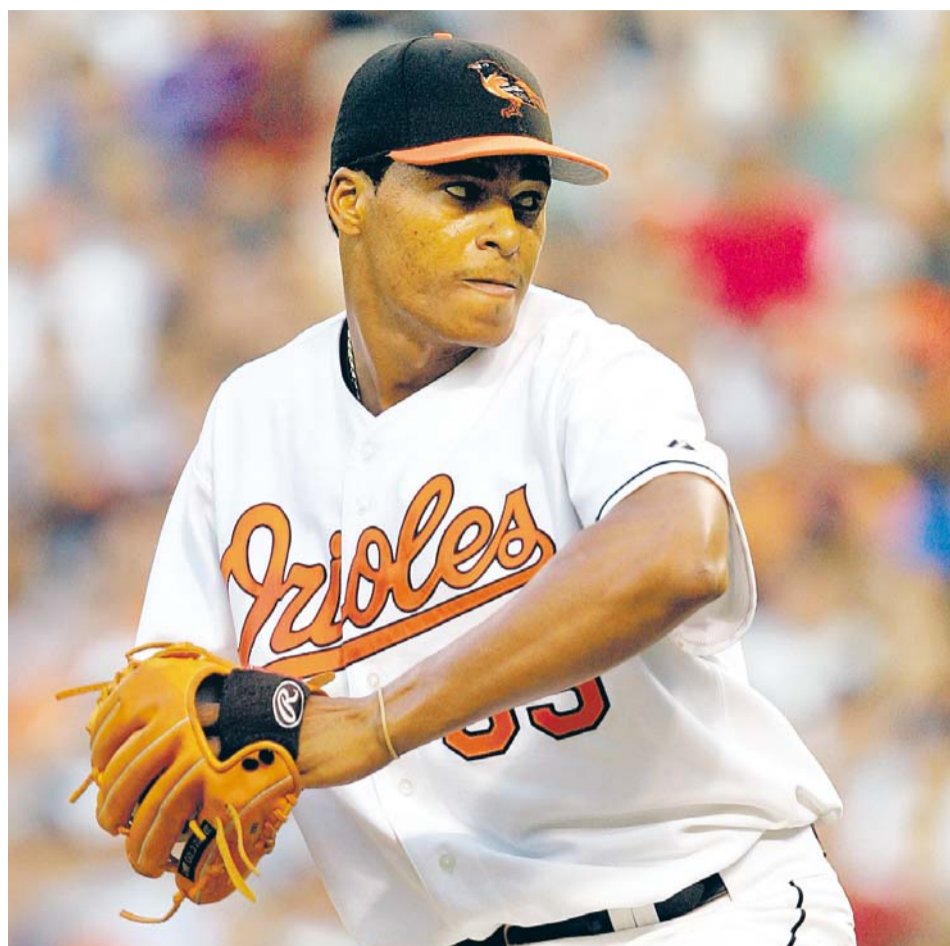
## SP DANIEL CABRERA No. 4 Starter

**VITALS**  
Number: 35  
Age: 24  
Height: 6-7  
Weight: 250  
Bats: Right  
Throws: Right

**2005**  
Starts: 29  
CG: 0  
Innings: 161 2/3  
Wins: 10  
Losses: 13  
ERA: 4.52  
Hits: 144  
Runs: 92  
Earned: 81  
Walks: 87  
Strikeouts: 157

**'05 SALARY**  
\$325,000

**WHY HE IS IMPORTANT**  
If the fearless Cabrera masters his off-speed pitch, the Orioles will have their first true No. 1 starter since Mike Mussina in 2000.



A four-inning, no-hit performance by Cabrera in the World Baseball Classic showed the baseball world what the Orioles already know: This guy has talent. If he could harness that talent, then . . . That has been the story with Cabrera the past two seasons. No pitcher on the staff is as talented or as intimidating as Cabrera, who last year threw 37 pitches that equaled or exceeded 100 mph, the most in the majors. He isn't afraid to throw at or near a hitter and he won't back down from anyone. But for all his talent, Cabrera still struggles with his command. Last year he walked only two fewer batters (87) than he did in his rookie season and allowed just as many home runs (14). But if there ever was sign of improvement, it was in strikeouts. Cabrera struck out more than twice as many last year (157) than he did in his first year (76).

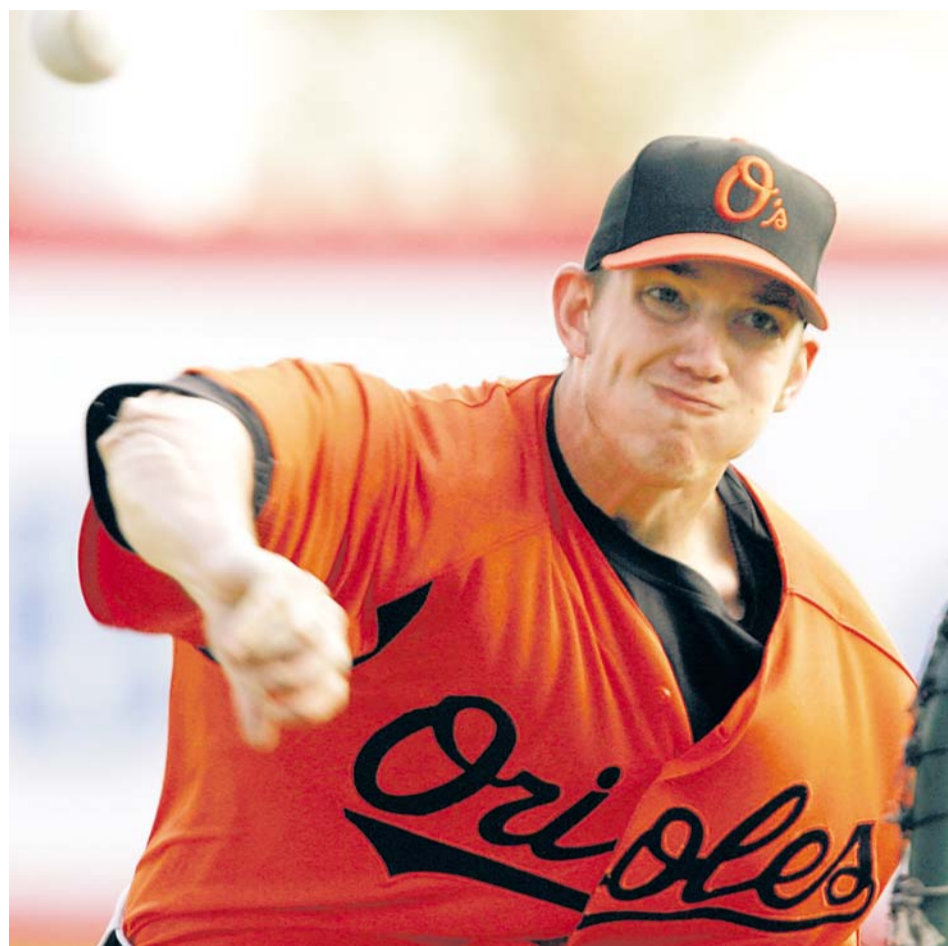
## CLOSER CHRIS RAY Setup Man: LaTroy Hawkins

**VITALS**  
Number: 37  
Age: 24  
Height: 6-3  
Weight: 200  
Bats: Right  
Throws: Right

**2005**  
Saves: 0  
Chances: 4  
Innings: 40 2/3  
Wins: 1  
Losses: 3  
ERA: 2.66  
Hits: 34  
Runs: 15  
Earned: 12  
Walks: 18  
Strikeouts: 43

**'05 SALARY**  
\$327,000

**WHY HE IS IMPORTANT**  
The Orioles enter the season with a closer who has never saved a major league game and has saved just 18 in the minors.



When B.J. Ryan signed a five-year, \$47 million contract during the offseason with Toronto, the Orioles were left without a true closer. Jorge Julio, who had saved games for the Orioles from 2002 to '04, seemed a possible candidate for the closer's role until he was traded to the Mets in a deal that helped Baltimore obtain Kris Benson. Enter Ray. This is where one normally would speak of the closer's credentials. But Ray's only experience as a closer came last season, when he was thrust into the role for Class AA Bowie. Before last season, 41 of his 43 appearances in the minors had been as a starting pitcher. He was drafted from William & Mary in 2003 as a starter. But now he'll be asked to perform perhaps the team's most important role. Why Ray? In 41 games last season, all of which came in middle relief, Ray held batters to a .222 average and struck out 43 in 40 2/3 innings.

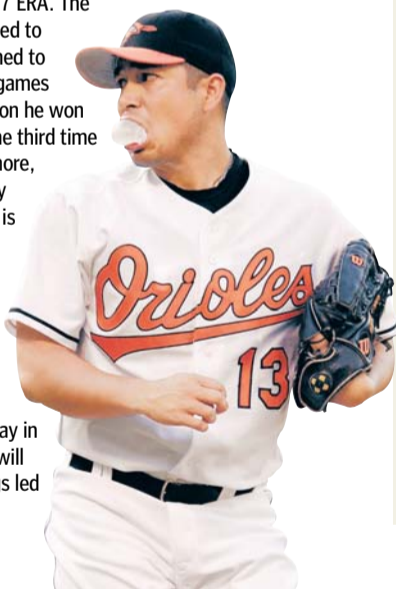
## SP RODRIGO LOPEZ No. 1 Starter

**VITALS**  
Number: 13  
Age: 30  
Height: 6-1  
Weight: 190  
Bats: Right  
Throws: Right

**2005**  
Starts: 35  
CG: 0  
Innings: 209 1/3  
Wins: 15  
Losses: 12  
ERA: 4.90  
Hits: 232  
Runs: 126  
Earned: 114  
Walks: 63  
Strikeouts: 118

**'05 SALARY**  
\$2.375 million

If random, and albeit non-scientific, statistical analysis shows us anything about Lopez it's that he is primed to have a phenomenal season. Why? Both of Lopez's standout seasons with the Orioles have come in even-numbered years. In 2002, his rookie season, Lopez was 15-9 with a 3.57 ERA. The next season his wins dropped to seven while his ERA ballooned to 5.82. In 2004 he won 14 games with a 3.59 ERA. Last season he won 15, but his ERA rose. For the third time in his five seasons in Baltimore, Lopez gets the Opening Day assignment. His stuff likely is not as good as any other pitcher on the staff, but no one has as good a command of the strike zone. When his pitches are dancing he often is unhittable. When he is not pitching well, Lopez's pitches will stay in the strike zone and hitters will feast. Lopez's 209 1/3 innings led the staff last season.



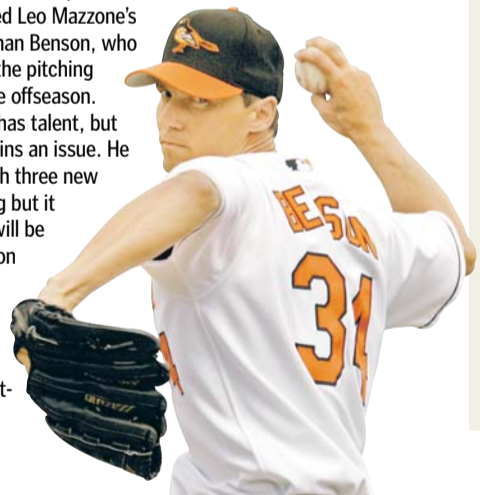
## SP KRIS BENSON No. 3 Starter

**VITALS**  
Number: 34  
Age: 31  
Height: 6-4  
Weight: 205  
Bats: Right  
Throws: Right

**2005**  
Starts: 28  
CG: 0  
Innings: 174 2/3  
Wins: 10  
Losses: 8  
ERA: 4.13  
Hits: 171  
Runs: 86  
Earned: 80  
Walks: 49  
Strikeouts: 95

**'05 SALARY**  
\$5.33 million

Perhaps no player has ever received more attention because of his wife. Depending on who you believe, the Orioles were able to acquire Benson this offseason because the Mets had tired of his wife, Anna, who often criticized the organization. Baltimore gladly took in Benson, who instantly became its most experienced starter. Once the overall No. 1 pick in the 1996 draft, Benson has six years of major league experience, yet he's never won more than 12 games. No pitcher on the staff has embraced Leo Mazzone's teachings more than Benson, who worked out with the pitching coach twice in the offseason. Benson certainly has talent, but consistency remains an issue. He experimented with three new pitches this spring but it appears Benson will be content to abandon the curveball and simply use the cutter and change-up to go along with his fast-ball and sinker.



## SP BRUCE CHEN No. 5 Starter

**VITALS**  
Number: 27  
Age: 28  
Height: 6-1  
Weight: 210  
Bats: Left  
Throws: Left

**2005**  
Starts: 32  
CG: 1  
Innings: 197 1/3  
Wins: 13  
Losses: 10  
ERA: 3.83  
Hits: 187  
Runs: 94  
Earned: 84  
Walks: 63  
Strikeouts: 133

**'05 SALARY**  
\$550,000

This former baseball nomad became Baltimore's best starting pitcher last season. No Orioles pitcher was more of a surprise than Chen, whose ERA led all starters. It was quite a year for Chen, who only cemented his spot on the staff last season with a start in an exhibition game in Oklahoma City only three days prior to Opening Day. Chen did not allow a run in 14 2/3 innings last year in spring training and he carried his success into the regular season. Now Chen, a free agent at the end of the season, is hoping to become a regular part of the rotation. Last year Chen held hitters to just a .248 average while walking 63 in 197 1/3 innings. Chen credits his use of the change-up to revitalizing his career. If there is a fault with Chen, it's that he allows the long ball. Chen's 33 home runs allowed ranked sixth worst in the majors.



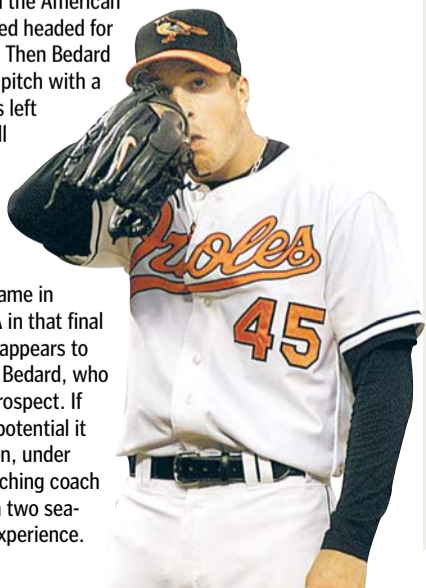
## SP ERIK BEDARD No. 2 Starter

**VITALS**  
Number: 45  
Age: 27  
Height: 6-1  
Weight: 195  
Bats: Left  
Throws: Left

**2005**  
Starts: 24  
CG: 0  
Innings: 141 2/3  
Wins: 6  
Losses: 8  
ERA: 4.00  
Hits: 139  
Runs: 66  
Earned: 63  
Walks: 57  
Strikeouts: 125

**'05 SALARY**  
\$330,000

During the first two months of last season it would have been hard to argue there was a better pitcher in baseball than Bedard. On May 21, Bedard was 5-1 with a 2.08 ERA, which at the time was second in the American League, and he appeared headed for an all-star appearance. Then Bedard no longer felt he could pitch with a strained ligament in his left knee and his season fell apart. He missed almost two months and when he returned he was not nearly as dominant. Bedard did not win a game in September and his ERA in that final month was 6.28. This appears to be a pivotal season for Bedard, who at 27 is past being a prospect. If he ever lives up to his potential it likely will be this season, under the tutelage of new pitching coach Leo Mazzone, and with two seasons of major league experience.



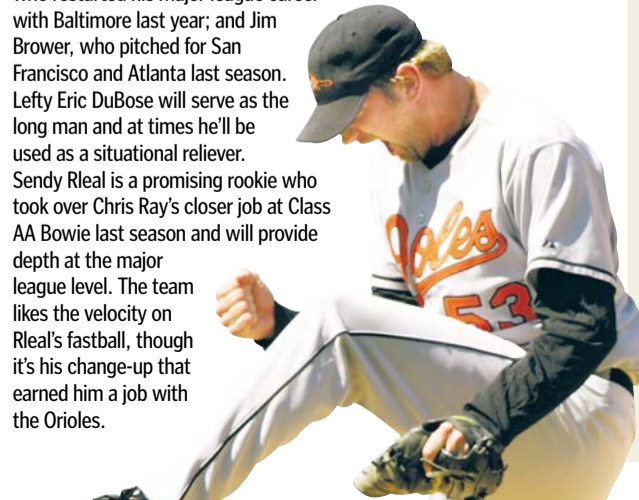
## RP THE BULLPEN

**MEMBERS**  
LaTroy Hawkins  
Tim Byrdak  
Todd Williams  
Eric DuBose  
Jim Brower

**2005 (COMBINED)**  
Saves: 9  
Chances: 22  
Innings: 249  
Wins: 12  
Losses: 20  
ERA: 4.27  
Hits: 258  
Runs: 132  
Earned: 118  
Walks: 122  
Strikeouts: 182

**'05 SALARY**  
\$6,515,000

The Orioles will open the season with a completely different bullpen than the one they had on Opening Day 2005. (There actually is one holdover, **Todd Williams**, but he will begin the season on the disabled list with a strained calf.) Baltimore's revamped bullpen includes LaTroy Hawkins, a former closer who flamed out with the Cubs; Tim Byrdak, a former Independent League pitcher who restarted his major league career with Baltimore last year; and Jim Brower, who pitched for San Francisco and Atlanta last season. Lefty Eric DuBose will serve as the long man and at times he'll be used as a situational reliever. Senny Real is a promising rookie who took over Chris Ray's closer job at Class AA Bowie last season and will provide depth at the major league level. The team likes the velocity on Real's fastball, though it's his change-up that earned him a job with the Orioles.



## MANAGER SAM PERLOZZO

**VITALS**  
Number: 2  
Age: 55  
Wins: 23  
Losses: 32  
Seasons: 1

**COACHES**  
Lee Elia (bench)  
Dave Cash (first base)  
Tom Trebelhorn (third base)  
Terry Crowley (hitting)  
Leo Mazzone (pitching)  
Rick Dempsey (bullpen)

It would be unfair to judge Perlozzo on his 23-32 record when he took over for Lee Mazzilli on an interim basis last season on Aug. 4. The team had sunk after Erik Bedard's knee injury, Rafael Palmeiro's positive steroid result, Sammy Sosa's foot injuries and its inactivity around the trade deadline. The clubhouse had soured and many players openly talked about their desire for the season to end. The team's attitude has vastly improved this spring and it is mostly because of Perlozzo, who had been a coach at the major league level 19 seasons before finally being named manager this offseason. Perhaps Perlozzo's best move this offseason was to convince pitching coach Leo Mazzone, who had helped guide Atlanta to 14 consecutive division titles, to sign on. Mazzone, who is best friends with Perlozzo, brings instant credibility to the coaching staff.

