

# NLCS Preview

By Barry Svrluga



## Arizona Diamondbacks vs. Colorado Rockies



Diamondbacks 90-72, NL West champion; Rockies 89-73, defeated San Diego in a one-game playoff to win the NL wild card.  
Division Series: Diamondbacks defeated Chicago Cubs in three games; Rockies defeated Philadelphia Phillies in three games.



BY STEPHEN DUNN — GETTY IMAGES



BY MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ — ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brian Fuentes has a 1.93 ERA since becoming one of the Rockies' setup men.

Diamondbacks leadoff man Chris Young has 32 homers, but also 141 strikeouts.

### About Colorado

**What We've Learned About the Rockies:** Start with the back end of the bullpen, which has been almost impenetrable. Brian Fuentes began the year as the closer and became an all-star. But he lost the job after a horrendous late June stretch in which he blew four consecutive saves. Fuentes thus moved to a setup role, in which he has a 1.93 ERA, including the playoffs. Manny Corpas became the closer and has 22 saves in 23 chances with a 1.31 ERA after the switch. Since Fuentes and Corpas swapped roles, the bullpen's ERA is 3.27, including the playoffs.

This is a patient club. The Rockies' .354 OBP in the regular season led the NL, and they saw 3.87 pitches per plate appearance, which tied for the NL lead.

We also know that MVP candidate Matt Holliday is a different hitter at Coors Field (.376 average, .435 OBP, .722 slugging in the regular season) than he is on the road (.301, .374, .485).

**What We Still Don't Know:** What happens when you reinsert a key piece back into a team that has won 17 of its last 18 games? We might find out, given that center fielder and leadoff man Willy Taveras — out since Sept. 8 with a strained right quadriceps — was activated and will play tonight. In only 97 games, Taveras had more than twice as many bunt hits (37) as any other player. But will he fit in seamlessly to a team that made the playoffs without him?

We also don't know if first baseman Todd Helton will take advantage of his first trip to the postseason. He went 1 for 12 in the division series.

### About Arizona

**What We've Learned About the Diamondbacks:** Forget about run differential. Yes, Arizona gave up 20 more runs than it scored, a statistic that is supposed to put a team on the golf course rather than in the postseason. Also forget about offensive stats, because the Diamondbacks' .250 batting average and .321 OBP during the season both were worst in the NL.

We know Brandon Webb is an elite starter. Over the past two seasons, only Minnesota's Johan Santana (3.04) has a better ERA than Webb (3.06), and no one has thrown more than his 471½ innings, an average of just more than seven a start.

And we know that throwing a first-pitch fastball to leadoff man Chris Young (32 homers, 141 strikeouts) is perilous. He might swing and miss, but he might just homer, though he didn't have one in 51 at-bats against Colorado.

**What We Still Don't Know:** Beyond Webb, can the starting pitching hold up? Game 2 starter Doug Davis allowed Colorado hitters a .343 average — permitting an incredible 35 base runners in 17 innings — in three starts against the Rockies this season. Livan Hernandez has plenty of big-game experience, and he had five quality starts and a 1.54 ERA against the Rockies. But his overall numbers — .308 average against and 34 homers allowed, both second worst in the NL — indicate he's vulnerable.

Can they hit enough against Rockies' pitching? They slugged an anemic .386 in 18 games against Colorado this year, scoring three or fewer runs in 11 of those games.

### ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS

		2007 STATS							'07 VS. ROCKIES		
CATCHERS	B/T	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG.	AVG.	HR	RBI	
Hammock, R.	R/R	45	5	11	0	0	.244	.400	0	0	
Montero, M.	L/R	214	30	48	10	37	.224	.227	2	7	
Snyder, C.	R/R	326	37	82	13	47	.252	.167	0	0	
INFIELDBERS	B/T	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG.	AVG.	HR	RBI	
Callaspo, A.	S/R	144	10	31	0	7	.215	.304	0	1	
Cirillo, J.	R/R	193	24	48	2	27	.249	.000	0	0	
Clark, T.	S/R	221	31	55	17	51	.249	.273	4	13	
Drew, S.	L/R	543	60	129	12	60	.238	.231	1	4	
Jackson, C.	R/R	415	56	118	15	60	.284	.244	2	6	
Ojeda, A.	S/R	113	16	31	1	12	.274	Did not play			
Reynolds, M.	R/R	366	62	102	17	62	.279	.324	0	3	
OUTFIELDERS	B/T	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG.	AVG.	HR	RBI	
Byrnes, E.	R/R	626	103	179	21	83	.286	.290	3	14	
Salazar, J.	L/L	94	13	26	1	10	.277	Did not play			
Upton, J.	R/R	140	17	31	2	11	.221	.200	0	0	
Young, C.	R/R	569	85	135	32	68	.237	.235	0	4	
<b>Totals</b>		<b>5398</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>1350</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>.250</b>	<b>.248</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>71</b>	

		2007 STATS							'07 VS. ROCKIES		
PITCHERS	T	W-L	Sv	IP	H	BB	SO	ERA	W-L	IP	ERA
Cruz, J.	R	6-1	0	61.0	45	32	87	3.10	1-0	5.1	3.38
Davis, D.	L	13-12	0	192.2	211	95	144	4.25	1-2	17.0	3.18
Gonzalez, E.	R	8-4	0	102.0	110	28	62	5.03	1-1	6.1	7.11
Hernandez, L.	R	11-11	0	204.1	247	79	90	4.93	1-0	35.0	1.54
Lyon, B.	R	6-4	2	74.0	70	22	40	2.68	1-1	10.0	3.60
Nippert, D.	R	1-1	0	45.1	48	16	38	5.56	0-1	4.1	8.31
Owings, M.	R	8-8	0	152.2	146	60	106	4.30	Did not pitch		
Peña, T.	R	5-4	2	85.1	63	31	63	3.27	0-1	8.2	0.00
Slaten, D.	L	3-2	0	36.1	41	14	28	2.72	1-0	3.2	2.45
Valverde, J.	R	1-4	47	61.4	46	26	78	2.66	0-1	8.2	2.08
Webb, B.	R	18-10	0	236.1	209	72	194	3.01	1-3	39.0	5.77
<b>Totals</b>		<b>90-72</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>1441</b>	<b>1446</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>1088</b>	<b>4.13</b>	<b>8-10</b>	<b>160.2</b>	<b>4.20</b>

### COLORADO ROCKIES

		2007 STATS							'07 VS. D-BACKS		
CATCHERS	B/T	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG.	AVG.	HR	RBI	
Iannetta, C.	R/R	197	22	43	4	2	.218	.269	0	3	
Torrealba, Y.	R/R	396	47	101	8	47	.255	.225	0	1	
INFIELDBERS	B/T	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG.	AVG.	HR	RBI	
Atkins, G.	R/R	605	83	182	25	111	.301	.283	1	9	
Carroll, J.	R/R	227	45	51	2	22	.225	.268	0	0	
Helton, T.	L/L	557	86	178	17	91	.320	.375	1	9	
Matsui, K.	S/R	410	84	118	4	37	.288	.292	0	5	
Tulowitzki, T.	R/R	609	104	177	24	99	.291	.209	1	9	
OUTFIELDERS	B/T	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG.	AVG.	HR	RBI	
Baker, J.	R/R	144	17	32	4	12	.222	.250	1	2	
Hawpe, B.	L/L	516	80	150	29	116	.291	.352	3	18	
Holliday, M.	R/R	636	120	216	36	173	.340	.361	2	13	
Smith, S.	L/L	8	4	5	0	0	.625	Did not play			
Spilborghs, R.	R/R	264	40	79	11	51	.299	.353	0	3	
Sullivan, C.	L/L	140	19	40	2	14	.286	.200	0	2	
<b>Totals</b>		<b>5691</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>1591</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>823</b>	<b>.280</b>	<b>.280</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>80</b>	

		2007 STATS							'07 VS. D-BACKS		
PITCHERS	T	W-L	Sv	IP	H	BB	SO	ERA	W-L	IP	ERA
Affeldt, J.	L	4-3	0	59.0	47	33	46	3.51	1-1	8.2	2.08
Buchholz, T.	R	6-5	0	93.2	105	20	61	4.23	0-0	4.1	6.23
Corpas, M.	R	4-2	19	78.0	63	20	58	2.08	1-0	11.0	1.64
Fogg, J.	R	10-9	0	165.2	194	59	94	4.94	1-1	24.0	2.63
Francis, J.	L	17-9	0	215.1	234	63	165	4.22	1-1	19.0	2.84
Fuentes, B.	L	3-5	20	61.1	46	23	56	3.08	1-0	9.2	0.00
Hawkins, L.	R	2-5	0	55.1	52	16	29	3.42	0-2	6.1	8.53
Herges, M.	R	5-1	0	48.2	34	15	30	2.96	1-0	5.0	1.80
Jimenez, U.	R	4-4	0	82.0	70	37	68	4.28	0-0	13.0	2.77
Morales, F.	L	3-2	0	39.1	34	14	26	3.43	Did not pitch		
Redman, M.	L	2-4	0	41.1	59	17	27	7.62	1-0	5.0	0.00
Speier, R.	R	3-1	0	18.0	20	8	13	4.00	0-0	1.0	0.00
<b>Totals</b>		<b>90-73</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>1472</b>	<b>1497</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>4.32</b>	<b>10-8</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>3.86</b>

### SCHEDULE All games on TBS (\*if necessary)

GAME 1	GAME 2	GAME 3	GAME 4	GAME 5*	GAME 6*	GAME 7*
at D-backs, 8:37 tonight Jeff Francis (17-9, 4.22) vs. Brandon Webb (18-10, 3.01)	at D-backs, 10:18 p.m. tomorrow Ubaldo Jimenez (4-4, 4.28) vs. Doug Davis (13-12, 4.25)	at Rockies, 8:37 p.m. Sunday Livan Hernandez (11-11, 4.93) vs. Josh Fogg (10-9, 4.94)	at Rockies, 10:18 p.m. Monday	at Rockies, 8:37 p.m. Wednesday	at D-backs, 8:37 p.m. Oct. 19	at D-backs, TBD Oct. 20