

## 10 Reasons Why The Cardinals Will Win The NL Central

### Lineups

#### STL

1. Schumaker/Lugo - 2B
2. DeRosa - 3B
3. Pujols - 1B
4. Holliday - LF
5. Ludwick - RF
6. Rasmus/Ankiel - CF
7. Molina - C
8. Ryan/Lugo - SS

#### CHC

1. Fukudome - CF
2. Theriot - SS
3. Lee - 1B
4. Ramirez - 3B
5. Bradley - RF
6. Soriano - LF
7. Fontenot - 2B
8. Hill - C

### Starting Rotation

#### STL

1. Carpenter
2. Wainwright
3. Pineiro
4. Lohse
5. Wellemeyer

#### CHC

1. Zambrano
2. Dempster
3. Lilly\* (DL)
4. Harden
5. Wells

### Bullpen (top 2 RRP + top 1 LRP + closer)

#### STL

- CL. Franklin  
RRP1. McClellan  
RRP2. Motte  
LRP. Miller

#### CHC

- CL. Gregg  
RRP1. Marmol  
RRP2. Heilman/Guzman  
LRP. Marshall

\*When two players qualify for a position in any of the above charts, the average of their relevant statistic is taken

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1. The Cardinals have a deeper lineup than the Cubs (*“easy outs” defined by OBP of #5-8 batters*)

STL - .335

CHC - .323

2. The Cardinals have a more dangerous lineup than the Cubs (*OPS of #1-5; SO% of #1-5; \*Note: Holliday and Lugo, who have been unrealistically good, have been normalized from 1.546 and .982, respectively, to halfway between those current numbers and their career avg.*)

STL - .945

CHC - .853

3. The Cardinals have a better defense than the Cubs at almost every critical position (*no statistics needed, it's widely known that Molina and Ryan are top-notch and the Cubs' OF is terrible*)

STL - C, LF, CF, RF, SS

CHC - None

\* toss-ups: 1B, 2B, 3B

4. The Cardinals have a better starting rotation than the Cubs (*avg. SP ERA; avg. SP WHIP*)

STL - 3.528; 1.267

CHC - 3.652; 1.275

5. More importantly, the Cardinals' remaining schedule allows for only 4 starting pitchers for all but 2 starts until the season ends; the Cubs' does not. Additionally, Lilly is on the DL until late August thereby requiring even more innings from other pitchers (*avg. SP ERA; avg. SP WHIP - minus Wellemeyer and Lilly*)

STL - 2.968; 1.145

CHC - 3.668; 1.305

6. The Cardinals have a better bullpen (not including closers) than the Cubs (*inherited runner score %; ERA; WHIP*)

STL - 12%; 3.48; 1.263

CHC - 22%; 3.57; 1.367

7. The Cardinals have a better closer than the Cubs (*saves/opportunities; ERA; WHIP; pitches/game*)

STL (Franklin) - 24/26; 1.33; 0.855; 15

CHC (Gregg) - 21/26; 4.17; 1.349; 19

8. The Cardinals run the bases better than the Cubs (*total bases; stolen bases/attempts; XBT%; 1<sup>st</sup>-to-3<sup>rd</sup> on a single*)

STL - 1487; 47/68; 41%; 56

CHC - 1478; 39/73; 36%; 52

9. The Cardinals have a better manager than the Cubs (*career wins; win % last 15 years; career post-season appearances*)

STL (Cranky Tony La Russa)- 2,519; .542; 12

CHC (Sweet Lou Piniella) - 1,757; .519; 6

10. The Cardinals have an easier remaining schedule and play most difficult teams at Busch Stadium, while the Cubs are on the road at crucial times

STL win% vs. sub-500 teams - .583

STL home win% - .574

CHC road win% - .442