



MLB

## Using Vegas Lines to Help You Succeed in Daily Fantasy Baseball

by David Gonos     Aug 04 9:16am

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Understanding that playing daily [fantasy baseball](#) on FanDuel is a great way to enjoy the game, but it's also good to know different ways to help you win! Nobody wants to play just to go through the work of research and end up losing. Entertaining or not, it's just not as good as winning!

In that vein, we're going to talk about using Vegas lines to help your FanDuel MLB teams this summer. It's like using a weighted bat doughnut to improve your bat speed. In fact, it's just like that.

But why use Vegas lines at all? Are those numbers safe to rely on? Aren't they wrong just as often as they are right?

The reason we rely on Vegas lines is because they're the best publicly available source of quickly understandable statistical analysis. They save all of us hundreds of hours of research every day. There will always be anomalies and streaks that buck trends and analysis, but for the most part, Vegas is usually closer to the mark than everyone else. They didn't build those fancy hotels by losing, did they?

You'll see many lines posted on sportsbook websites and even some major sports news websites, too. We'll break down some of the components of the Vegas lines and how they can help your FanDuel lineups.

### Money Lines

A money line is the number a bettor would win if they wagered \$100. While that doesn't apply

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have a great chance to win.

win counts for four points – which negates four earned runs and is the equivalent to four strikeouts or four innings pitched.

To illustrate, a team with a -200 money line basically has a 2-to-1 chance of winning that day's game, and their opponent basically has the opposite chances of winning. The starting pitcher would then be someone to consider for FanDuel – depending on his price, of course. Just because he's favored to win doesn't mean you pay an ultra-high salary for him. You still have to judge his "value" against the other pitchers on that day's slate.

Obviously, the pitcher on the other end of that money line – if it's a big one – is not someone to consider outside of GPP tournament play. We say that because in tournaments, you often will want a player everyone else – including Vegas – might be going against. But even then, the bad end of a big money line is a big loser more often than not.

Remember, you're looking for the largest negative numbers – you want pitchers that are heavily favored to get a win – in order to better your chances of getting four points.

But this is only the beginning of your FanDuel pitcher research. Make note of the obvious favorites, guys like Max Scherzer, Clayton Kershaw and David Price, but you'll also want to see which of the medium-grade pitchers have surprisingly high money lines. You might find the better value among them.

## Over/Under Totals

The folks in Vegas are also kind enough to share their estimations on what the total runs scored will be in each baseball game that day. In other words, they've gone through the data on the pitchers and the hitters of each club, considered the stadium and the weather, and they've determined that X number of runs will cross home plate.

In Vegas, bettors try to decide if the total runs scored will be "over" or "under" the number. Thankfully, FanDuel players don't have to do that – and they still get all the benefits of Vegas' research.

Consider the over/under line alongside the money lines for pitchers, and you can get a pretty good idea of what each team is expected to score.

Let's say 7.5 runs is the average over/under line for a ballgame on any given day, and you come across a game with a 6.0 money line and a pitcher that's a (-200) favorite to win. That's a strong favorite in a low-scoring game (probably against a bad lineup, but a good opposing pitcher), so you can reason that the winning team (favorite) should score 4.0 runs and the losing team just 2.0 runs. I'd want some shares of this particular starting pitcher, but I'd like to avoid both offenses – in general.

But if an over/under line of 9.0 shows up, with a favored pitcher at (-180), then I can assume an even greater spread, and load up on the opposite-handed hitters facing the unfavored pitcher in what's probably a solid pitcher's ballpark. But I'm probably staying away from both pitchers.

Figure you'll be looking at over-under lines ranging from 6.0 to 10.0 among all the matchups on any given day.

## Player Props

Some sportsbooks will also offer player proposition (or "prop") bets which are usually based on individual stats, like number of strikeouts for a pitcher or odds of hitting a home run for a hitter.

These are pretty self-explanatory in how they can help a FanDuel player. Wouldn't you like to load up on a pitcher Vegas believes will strike out around 10 batters tonight? While home run sluggers rarely come cheap, wouldn't you like to own the one with the greatest odds of hitting *at least* one home run tonight?

What's really key here is finding players who normally don't find themselves listed with the others in the group. Which one of these things are not like the other? You might find a slugging middle infielder with a great pitching matchup in a hitter's park, or you could find a good left-handed pitcher facing a free-swinging righty lineup.

By taking into account over-under lines, as well as money lines and player props, FanDuel players gives themselves more opportunities to win, while adding some precise tools to their

arsenal.

**The NFL is back on FanDuel! Enter the [\\$1 Million NFL Rush](#) for Week 1. Just \$5 to enter, and first place will walk home with \$100,000. Submit a lineup now, and change it anytime up until 9/13.**

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