

## 2015 Starting Pitcher ELO Results

If you wish to learn more about the Pitcher ELO approach, please see the article from last year at [simodds.com](http://simodds.com).

Below are the top 15 pitchers with at least 22 starts for the season, in terms of average winning percentage difference versus expectation. This rating is not based on any pitcher statistics except the pitcher's team ELO, the opponent's team ELO, and the outcome of the game. The idea is to find a simple to calculate measure of pitcher's performance that is not dependent individual stats. Luck could certainly be a factor here (offensive output for pitcher's games could be higher than average, bullpen could perform better in their games, etc). Again, see the article above for details of why and how.

Pitcher	Avg Win Percentage Improvement
Jake Arrieta [1]	0.246
David Price [2]	0.221
Carlos Martinez	0.195
Dallas Keuchel [1]	0.186
Michael Wacha	0.183
Zack Grienke [2]	0.170
Cole Hamels	0.154
Carlos Rodon	0.153
Collin McHugh [8]	0.151
Julio Teheran	0.143
Jacob deGrom [7]	0.141
Nathan Eovaldi	0.140
Felix Hernandez [7]	0.135
Edison Volquez	0.127
Taijuan Walker	0.113

[x] = Cy Young finish

Cy Young voting does not like pitchers who split their seasons between teams. Also, this list makes clear what we all know already, which is that pitcher's W/L records, especially within a single season, are subject to a ton of randomness. Even with those caveats, we still get the top two in Cy Young for each league within the top six pitchers. The goal of this research was to find the minimal amount of information required to form an accurate prediction of a game's outcome that nears breakeven at Vegas odds. Adding this crude pitcher's effectiveness rating gets it close (almost unbelievably, at least to me).

Incidentally, here are the five worst pitchers with at least 20 starts

<b>Pitcher</b>	<b>Avg Win Percentage Improvement</b>
Jesse Chavez	-0.181
Roenis Elias	-0.177
Lance McCullers	-0.157
Kyle Lohse	-0.157
Corey Kluber	-0.154