

THE WINDUP

The top **strikeout kings** in the NL East

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What exactly would happen to Atlanta's vaunted offense if it had to face its own rotation 13 times each season? Less contact, for one thing, especially if the schedule lined up to face the likes of Spencer Strider and Charlie Morton. Sure, the importance of starters at the bottom of the rotation is diminishing with managers becoming reluctant to let a pitcher face hitters three times in a game – not to mention the emergence of bullpen pitchers serving as openers. But fans still love to see a fireballing hurler rack up one K after another. And the Braves, who also get Max Fried back this season, more than satisfy that need. This week, we rank the NL East by each team's top 2023 individual strikeout total, plus we'll provide each player's three-year average for 2021-23 (where applicable) and his ZIPS projected total for 2024 via Fangraphs.



GERALD HERBERT/AP

ATLANTA

Spencer Strider (right)
2023: 281
Two-year average: 242
2024 projection: 234

Charlie Morton
2023: 183
Three-year average: 201
2024 projection: 166

Bryce Elder
2023: 128
Two-year average: 88
2024 projection: 130



AP FILE

PHILADELPHIA

Zack Wheeler (left)
2023: 212
Three-year average: 207
2024 projection: 172

Aaron Nola
2023: 202
Three-year average: 220
2024 projection: 188

Taijuan Walker
2023: 138
Three-year average: 138
2024 projection: 116

MIAMI

Jesus Luzardo
2023: 208
Three-year average: 73
2024 projection: 173

Braxton Garrett
2023: 156
Two-year average: 123
2024 projection: 125

Edward Cabrera
2023: 118
Three-year average: N/A
2024 projection: 116

NEW YORK

Kodai Senga
2023: 202
Three-year average: N/A
2024 projection: 190

Sean Manaea
2023: 128
Three-year average: 159
2024 projection: 114

Adrian Houser
2023: 96
Three-year average: 90
2024 projection: 79

WASHINGTON

MacKenzie Gore
2023: 151
Two-year average: 112
2024 projection: 129

Josiah Gray
2023: 143
Three-year average: 124
2024 projection: 138

Patrick Corbin
2023: 124
Three-year average: 132
2024 projection: 106