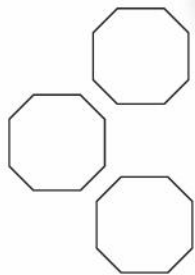


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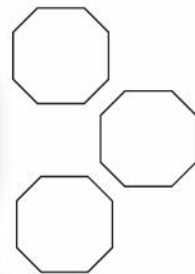
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2018

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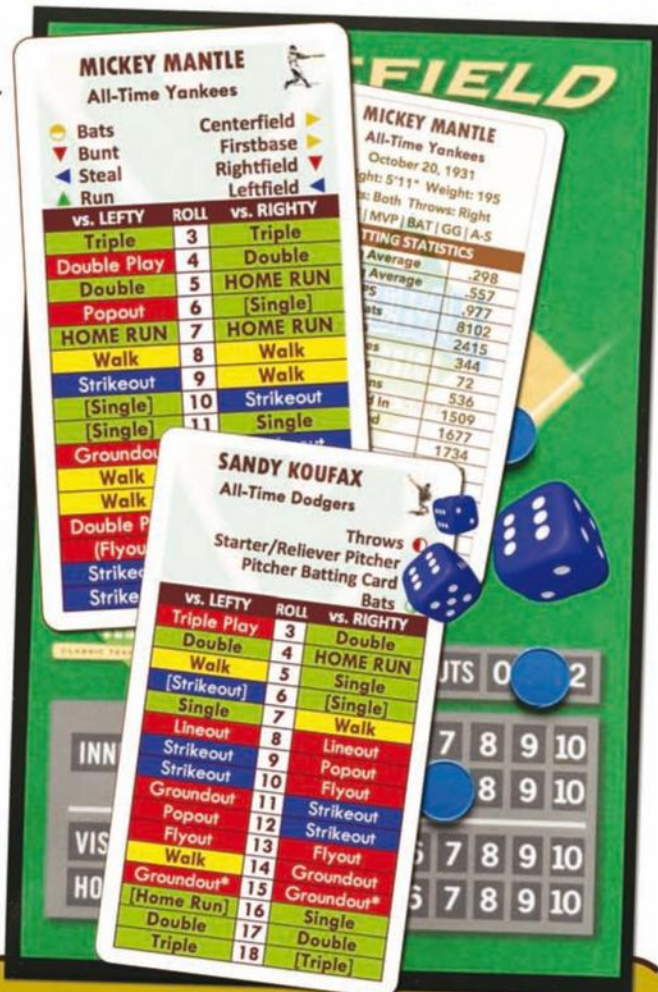
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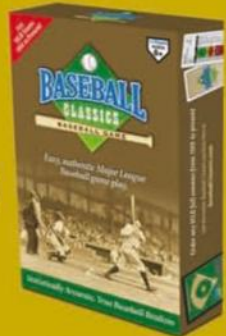


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GEORGE SPRINGER
Astros looking to win back-to-back World Series titles

COMING IN
BASEBALL DIGEST:
Hitting in The Clutch

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MOST RBI BY A LEADOFF BATTER (1920-2017)

Despite the disadvantage of batting behind weak-hitting pitchers, Colorado's Charlie Blackmon set a record for most RBI in a season by a leadoff batter. Blackmon knocked in 103 runs while batting first in the order. He broke the major-league mark of 100 set by Darin Erstad in 2000, and shattered the N.L. record of 88 established by Craig Biggio in 1998. Minnesota's Brian Dozier and Houston's George Springer also posted historic leadoff RBI totals in 2017.

PLAYER, TEAM	YEAR	G	RBI
Charlie Blackmon, Rockies	2017	156	103
Darin Erstad, Angels	2000	156	100
Alfonso Soriano, Yankees	2002	150	99
Nomar Garciaparra, Red Sox	1997	152	98
Jacoby Ellsbury, Red Sox	2011	144	97
Brian Dozier, Twins	2017	151	93
Johnny Damon, Red Sox	2004	143	91
Grady Sizemore, Indians	2008	157	90
Craig Biggio, Astros	1998	156	88
Johnny Damon, Royals	2000	157	88
Harvey Kuenn, Tigers	1956	129	85
Alfonso Soriano, Yankees	2003	142	85
Dom DiMaggio, Red Sox	1948	149	84
George Springer, Astros	2017	137	84
Taylor Douthitt, Cardinals	1930	143	83
Bobby Bonds, Giants	1973	139	83
Mike Trout, Angels	2012	138	83
Jimmy Rollins, Phillies	2006	152	82
Charlie Blackmon, Rockies	2016	135	82
Ian Kinsler, Tigers	2016	149	82

Note: RBI first officially recorded in 1920. Games and RBI figures are as a leadoff batter only.

MOST HR BY A LEADOFF BATTER (1876-2017)

Blackmon, Dozier and Springer also reached the top 10 for most home runs by a leadoff man.

PLAYER, TEAM	YEAR	G	HR
Alfonso Soriano, Nationals	2006	131	39
Alfonso Soriano, Yankees	2002	150	38
Charlie Blackmon, Rockies	2017	156	37
Bobby Bonds, Giants	1973	139	35
Brady Anderson, Orioles	1996	102	35
Alfonso Soriano, Yankees	2003	142	35
Brian Dozier, Twins	2017	151	34
George Springer, Astros	2017	137	34
Alfonso Soriano, Cubs	2007	125	33
Grady Sizemore, Indians	2008	157	33
Hanley Ramirez, Marlins	2008	135	32
Ian Kinsler, Rangers	2011	143	32
Tommy Harper, Brewers	1970	146	31
Rick Monday, Cubs	1976	131	31
Nomar Garciaparra, Red Sox	1997	152	30
Jimmy Rollins, Phillies	2007	139	30
Mike Trout, Angels	2012	138	30

Note: Games and HR figures are as a leadoff batter only.

CHARLIE BLACKMON

Charlie Blackmon had the most productive season of his big-league career in 2017, when he led the N.L. with 137 runs, 213 hits, 14 triples and a .331 batting average.

(AP Photo/John Bazemore)

MOST CAREER HITS BY SWITCH-HITTERS

Retiring with 2,725 career hits, the Astros' Carlos Beltran moved past Hall of Famers George Davis, Max Carey and Roberto Alomar into the sixth spot among switch-hitters.

PLAYER	YEARS	HITS
Pete Rose	1963-1986	4,256
Eddie Murray	1977-1997	3,255
Frankie Frisch	1919-1937	2,880
Omar Vizquel	1989-2012	2,877
Chipper Jones	1993-2012	2,726
Carlos Beltran	1998-2017	2,725
Roberto Alomar	1988-2004	2,724
Max Carey	1910-1929	2,665
George Davis	1890-1909	2,665
Tim Lincecum	1979-2002	2,605

PETE ROSE



David Durochik/SportPics

300 HR & .300 BA

Milwaukee's Ryan Braun and Seattle's Robinson Cano joined the exclusive "300/300 Club" in 2017. They are among 28 players with at least 300 career home runs and a .300-plus lifetime batting average. Matt Holliday (314 homers) actually joined for a while, too, but his career average slipped to .299 by the end of the season. The tipping point was September 20, when a 1-for-5 day dropped Holliday's career mark from .29954 to .29947.

PLAYER	HR	BA	PLAYER	HR	BA
Hank Aaron	755	.305	Mike Piazza	427	.308
Babe Ruth	714	.342	Larry Walker	383	.313
Willie Mays	660	.302	Todd Helton	369	.316
Albert Pujols	614	.305	Joe DiMaggio	361	.325
Manny Ramirez	555	.312	Johnny Mize	359	.312
Jimmie Foxx	534	.325	Moises Alou	332	.304
Ted Williams	521	.344	Hank Greenberg	331	.313
Frank Thomas	521	.301	George Brett	317	.305
Mel Ott	511	.304	Edgar Martínez	309	.312
Lou Gehrig	493	.340	Al Simmons	307	.334
Stan Musial	475	.331	Ryan Braun	302	.302
Chipper Jones	468	.303	Rogers Hornsby	301	.358
Miguel Cabrera	462	.317	Robinson Cano	301	.305
Vlad. Guerrero	449	.318	Chuck Klein	300	.320



HANK AARON
SportPics



WILLIE MAYS



ALBERT PUJOLS
SportPics

TEAMS WITH TWO PITCHERS WITH 20 SAVES

Last season Brandon Maurer was credited with 20 saves for the Padres before being dealt to the Royals in July; Brad Hand then took over San Diego's closer role and finished with 21 saves. The Padres became just the seventh team ever to get 20 or more saves from two different pitchers in a single season.

YEAR	TEAM	PITCHER	SVS
1965	Chicago White Sox	Eddie Fisher	24
		Hoyt Wilhelm	20
1983	San Francisco Giants	Greg Minton	22
		Gary Lavelle	20
1986	New York Mets	Roger McDowell	22
		Jesse Orosco	21
1991	Toronto Blue Jays	Tom Henke	32
		Duane Ward	23
1992	Cincinnati Reds	Norm Charlton	26
		Rob Dibble	25
2010	Houston Astros	Matt Lindstrom	23
		Brandon Lyon	20
2017	San Diego Padres	Brad Hand	21
		Brandon Maurer	20



NORM CHARLTON
ROB DIBBLE

(AP Photo/Al Behrman)

PITCHERS WITH BEST STRIKEOUT-TO-WALK RATIOS (Minimum 2,000 strikeouts)

The Dodgers' Clayton Kershaw and the Nationals' Max Scherzer each reached 2,000 career strikeouts in 2017. In so doing, they leaped high onto the list of pitchers with the highest career strikeout-to-walk ratio; Kershaw now ranks second all time and Scherzer is fifth. Four other active pitchers are among the 19 with at least a three-to-one ratio.

PITCHER	SO	BB	RATIO
Curt Schilling	3,116	711	4.38
Clayton Kershaw	2,120	507	4.18
Pedro Martínez	3,154	760	4.15
Dan Haren	2,013	500	4.03
Max Scherzer	2,149	534	4.02
Zack Greinke	2,236	594	3.76
Mike Mussina	2,813	785	3.58
Roy Halladay	2,117	592	3.58
Cole Hamels	2,227	645	3.45
Greg Maddux	3,371	999	3.37
Javier Vazquez	2,536	763	3.32
Randy Johnson	4,875	1,497	3.26
Dennis Eckersley	2,401	738	3.25
Felix Hernandez	2,342	721	3.25
Juan Marichal	2,303	709	3.25
Fergie Jenkins	3,192	997	3.20
Justin Verlander	2,416	771	3.13
Jake Peavy	2,207	708	3.12
David Wells	2,201	719	3.06



CURT SCHILLING

(AP Photo/Charles Krupa)

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FANS SPEAK OUT



(AP Photo)

WILLIE STARGELL

MVP YEAR

Like every other baseball fan, I truly enjoyed watching that fantastic World Series between the Dodgers and Astros! When George Springer was named Series MVP, I wondered if there has ever been a year when a player has won the All-Star Game MVP, his league's MVP, the LCS MVP and the World Series MVP in the same season?

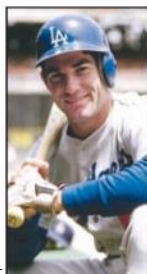
**Sam Melendez
Philadelphia PA**

No player has won all four honors in the same season. Nineteen players have won multiple MVP awards during the same year. Willie Stargell of the Pirates is the only player to capture three, when he was the National League, NLCS and World Series MVP in 1979. Steve Garvey is the only player to win multiple MVP awards in the same season in two separate years—1974 (All-Star and N.L. MVP) and 1978 (All-Star and NLCS MVP).

Year	Player, Team	All-Star MVP	League MVP	LCS MVP	World Series MVP
1962	Maury Wills, Dodgers	•	•		
1963	Sandy Koufax, Dodgers		•		•
1966	Frank Robinson, Orioles		•		•
1969	Willie McCovey, Giants	•	•		
1973	Reggie Jackson, A's		•		•
1974	Steve Garvey, Dodgers	•	•		
1978	Steve Garvey, Dodgers	•		•	
1979	Willie Stargell, Pirates		•	•	•
1980	Mike Schmidt, Phillies		•		•
1982	Darrell Porter, Cardinals			•	•
1986	Roger Clemens, Red Sox	•	•		
1988	Orel Hershiser, Dodgers			•	•
1991	Cal Ripken, Orioles	•	•		
1997	Livan Hernandez, Marlins			•	•
2000	Derek Jeter, Yankees	•			•
2008	Cole Hamels, Phillies			•	•
2010	Josh Hamilton, Rangers		•	•	•
2011	David Freese, Cardinals		•	•	•
2014	Mike Trout, Angels	•	•		
2014	Madison Bumgarner, Giants			•	•



MAURY WILLS



STEVE GARVEY

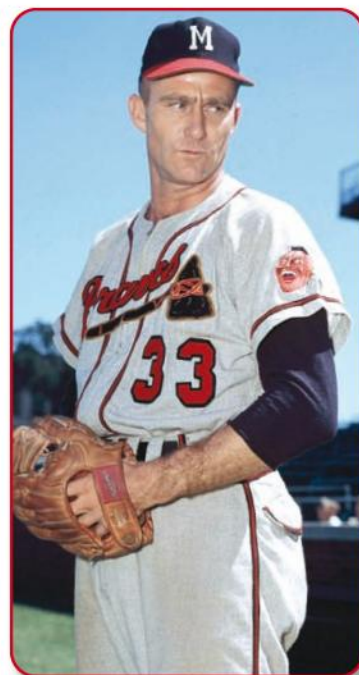
BRAVES ON A TRAIN

I've been a member of *Baseball Digest* for a long time, saving a lot of your magazines since I first started buying them. I enjoy your stories and stats. I even have your December 1980 *Baseball Digest* edition with Mickey Mantle's signature in it, next to an autographed Mickey Mantle baseball on display.

My basement rec room is filled with pennants starting in 1965 to today's teams, minus the 1969 Seattle Pilots team. I also have the ceramic team bobble heads and a baseball from every major-league park that my wife and I have attended. We're going visit them all. I even bought our old Milwaukee Brewer seats 3-4 when County Stadium closed and Miller Park opened.

I never got into collecting player autographs. While sitting in my basement, I noticed that I have an autographed paper-drinking cup with five Milwaukee Braves signatures on it. I started to think about how old it was.

Back then, the Milwaukee Braves took the train to Chicago to play the Cubs. My father said that I was about 6-7 years old when we took the old North Shore train to Wrigley Field to see the Braves play the Cubs. While we were on the train, Braves pitcher Lew Burdette handed me the drinking cup off the wall and pointed out catcher Del Crandall, pitchers Joey Jay, Don McMahon and Bob Trowbridge to me. All five of them signed it. He also told me that Henry Aaron, Warren Spahn and the other players were in the next car. Being so young, I didn't go ask them for autographs. Who would have thought back then that they would become future stars and Hall of Famers?



(AP Photo)

LEW BURDETTE

My question is, could you tell me what year or years that Burdette, Crandall, Jay, McMahon and Trowbridge played together with Aaron and Spahn? I see that they played with the Braves during the 1950s and '60s, but I can't find those five players listed on the same roster.

**Eddie Piehl
Kenosha, WI**

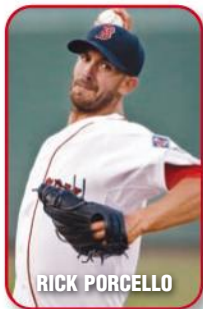
Hank Aaron, Warren Spahn, Lew Burdette and Del Crandall were teammates on the Milwaukee Braves from 1954 through 1963. Joey Jay was on the Braves from 1954 through 1960, Don McMahon from 1957 through 1960, and Bob Trowbridge from 1957 through 1959.

All seven players were teammates on the Braves for three seasons—1957, 1958 and 1959.

During the Braves' pennant-winning years (1957-1958) only Joey Jay did not appear in the 1957 World Series, and all but Jay and Trowbridge didn't make an appearance in the 1958 Fall Classic.

FROM TOP WINNER TO TOP LOSER

In 2016, Rick Porcello led the majors in wins. This year, he led the majors in losses. Has anyone else ever done this? How about leading the league in losses one year and wins the next?



(AP Photo/Brynn Anderson)

I believe that Steve Carlton and LaMarr Hoyt have led their league in both in back-to-back years, but not the majors (or they tied for the most wins/losses).

**Rick Deguchi
Covina, CA**

Three pitchers have led the major leagues in wins one year and losses the following season—Eddie Rommel (1922-1923), LaMarr Hoyt (1983-1984) and Rick Porcello (2016-2017). Thirteen

pitchers were league leaders in wins and then losses in consecutive seasons.

Five pitchers topped the major leagues in losses one year and wins the next—Eddie Cicotte (1918-1919), Eddie Rommel (1921-1922), Dolf Luque (1922-1923), Mickey Lolich (1970-1971) and Justin Verlander (2008-2009). Five American League pitchers and three National League pitchers have led their league in losses one year and wins the next.

Rommel earns special notice for leading the majors in losses in 1921 with 23. He rebounded to lead in wins with 27 in 1922, then fell back to post the most losses again in 1923, with 19. See the accompanying chart.

LED LEAGUE IN WINS ONE YEAR AND LOSSES THE NEXT (SINCE 1901)

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Pitcher, Team	Year	W-L
Al Orth, Yankees	1906	27-17
	1907	14-21
Eddie Cicotte, White Sox	1917	28-12
	1918	12-19
Eddie Rommel, A's	1922	27-13
	1923	18-19
Hal Newhouser, Tigers	1946	26-9
	1947	17-17
Bob Lemon, Indians	1950	23-11
	1951	17-14
LaMarr Hoyt, White Sox	1983	24-10
	1984	13-18
Corey Kluber, Indians	2014	18-9
	2015	9-16
Rick Porcello, Red Sox	2016	22-4
	2017	11-17

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Pitcher, Team	Year	W-L
Robin Roberts, Phillies	1955	23-14
	1956	19-18
Bob Friend, Pirates	1958	22-14
	1959	8-19
Steve Carlton, Phillies	1972	27-10
	1973	13-20
Phil Niekro, Braves	1979	21-20
	1980	15-18
Orel Hershiser, Dodgers	1988	23-8
	1989	15-15



(AP Photo)

EDDIE CICOTTE



(AP Photo/John Swartz)

LaMARR HOYT



SportPics

ROBIN ROBERTS

LED LEAGUE IN LOSSES ONE YEAR AND WINS THE NEXT (SINCE 1901)

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Pitcher, Team	Year	W-L
Eddie Cicotte, White Sox	1918	12-19
	1919	29-7
Eddie Rommel, A's	1921	16-23
	1922	27-13
Hal Newhouser, Tigers	1947	17-17
	1948	21-12
Mickey Lolich, Tigers	1970	14-19
	1971	25-14
Justin Verlander, Tigers	2008	11-17
	2009	19-9



SportPics

MICKY LOLICH

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Pitcher, Team	Year	W-L
Dolf Luque, Reds	1922	13-23
	1923	27-8
Charlie Root, Cubs	1926	18-17
	1927	26-15
Phil Niekro, Braves	1978	19-18
	1979	21-20



David Durochnik/SportPics

PHIL NIEKRO

MOST GAMES

Has any baseball player ever participated in all scheduled games (162), plus every possible opportunity for postseason contests including wild card, League Division Series, League Championship Series and engagements in the struggle deciding the honor of world championship team status?

In the 2014 season, Hunter Pence of the Giants came close. He played all 162 regular-season games, the N.L. wild-card match, four NLDS games, five NLCS contests and seven World Series games. He participated in all 179 games the Giants were involved in that year.

Hunter must have accumulated close to 750 plate appearances that year?

**Roger Leonard
Quincy, MA**

The most games an MLB player can play in one season, if you include wild-card game, five League Division Series games, seven League Championship games and seven World Series contests, is 182.

Prior to 2012, when two wild-card teams per league were introduced into postseason play, the most games a player could possibly participate in was 181.

Under those guidelines, the two players with the most games played in a season (179) are Hunter Pence of the Giants in 2014 and Juan Pierre of the Marlins in 2003.

As you stated, Pence played in all 162 regular-season games, along with one wild-card game, four LDS games, five NLCS games and seven World Series contests. Pierre played in all 162 regular-season games for the Marlins in 2003, plus four NLDS games, seven NLCS games and six World Series matches. There was no wild-card playoff game in 2003.

During the 179 games played by Pierre in 2003, he accumulated 830 plate appearances. In 2014, Pence combined for 782 plate appearances during regular-season and post-season play.



SportPics

HUNTER PENCE



(AP Photo/Nick Wass)

STEPHEN STRASBURG

THREE-PITCH INNINGS

On more than one occasion, I've seen the list of pitchers printed in *Baseball Digest* who struck out the side in order on nine pitches in one inning.

I've never seen a list or even heard anything mentioned about pitchers who retired the side in order on three pitches.

Are records kept on this stat? If so, can you please print the list?

**David H. Davis
Lawrenceburg, TN**

Retiring the side in order on three pitches has been accomplished 182 times in the major leagues by 158 pitchers. There were two occasions in which two pitchers combined to retire the side in order on three pitches in one inning.

On Sept. 30, 2000, Mike Mussina started the seventh inning in a game against the Yankees and retired the first batter, Chris Turner, on one pitch before being relieved by B.J. Ryan. Clay Bellinger hit Ryan's first pitch and reached on an error before being doubled up when Jose Vizcaino grounded into a double play on the next pitch offering from Ryan.

On Sept. 9, 2012, reliever Martin Perez of the Rangers surrendered a single to Carlos Pena of the Rays to start the eighth inning before being replaced by reliever Yoshinori Tateyama. Jose Molina grounded into a double play on the first pitch from Tateyama. Melvin Upton followed Molina and grounded out on the next pitch to end the inning.

Pitchers who had three-pitch innings multiple times during their careers are Walter Johnson (4), Mike DeJean (3), Red Faber (2), Christy Mathewson (2), Bret Saberhagen (2), Andy Ashby (2), Kent Bottenfield (2), Pete Harnish (2), Randy Johnson (2), Greg Maddux (2), Mariano Rivera (2), Travis Harper (2), Mike Maroth (2), Tim Wakefield (2), Bob Wickman (2), Carlos Silva (2), Esteban Loaiza (2), Tommy Hunter (2), Jeff Suppan (2), Randy Wolf (2) and Randy Wells (2).

Stephen Strasburg of the Nationals was the only pitcher credited with a three-pitch inning in 2017, when he retired the Pirates in the sixth inning. Strasburg hit Sean Rodriguez with the first pitch of the inning before forcing pitcher Gerrit Cole to pop out on a bunt attempt on the second pitch. Adam Frazier then grounded into a double play on the third and final pitch of the inning.

MOST GAMES

The Nov./Dec. 2017 issue had an article about the Dodgers and Giants leaving New York for California. In the article, the author wrote the Giants won the World Series in 1951. Although they did win the N.L. pennant that year, as announcer Russ Hodges excitedly described, the Giants lost the World Series to the Yankees in six games that year.

Another matter concerns the naming of the World Series

MVP Award for Willie Mays. Mays won one World Series title in 1954. Yogi Berra, on the other hand, won 10 World Series rings. What was the baseball commissioner thinking?

**Greg Dembowski
Pueblo West, CO**

DH DILEMMA

As a *Baseball Digest* subscriber since 1980, I've read many proposed solutions for the "DH or no DH" debate, and I think I have a final solution to this dilemma.

Since the A.L. and N.L. play by different rules, I think both leagues should always play by their own rules when they oppose each other . . . all the time!

That means the A.L. uses the DH in regular-season play, interleague play and postseason play while the N.L. does not use the DH against the A.L. ever.

Why? Because when teams play each other by rules they're not used to, it messes both teams up and changes the game adversely for both clubs. Why should either league play by the rules of the other league? If the N.L. believes that playing without the DH vs. the A.L. is a disadvantage to them, they have the right to change their rules and use the DH all the time, like the A.L. did way back in 1973.

Interleague play and postseason play are supposed to be all about the A.L. vs. the N.L., and with both leagues playing by the rules they normally use, it would finally be that way! Both leagues should play by their normal rules all the time, and then we will find out which of the leagues is the better one.

Baseball rules would finally be totally consistent for both leagues and fans will all see a whole new level of competition, as it should always have been.

**Curtis Sholl
Cleveland, OH**



(AP Photo/Lae C. Hong)

ALBERT PUJOLS

The main argument for the DH has always been that it produces more offense. Really? Well, according to MLB stats, for the last five seasons, the American League team average for scoring is only 0.2 more runs per game than the National League.

The A.L. team average runs per game from 2013 through 2017 are 4.7, 4.5, 4.4 and 4.3, respectively. The N.L. team average runs per game over the same time period are 4.6, 4.4, 4.1, 3.6 and 4.0, respectively. Now is the time to expose the DH myth as an obvious failure. I say that MLB should remove the DH and go back to playing real baseball again for two simple reasons.

First, A.L. pitchers would maybe think twice about throwing at batters if they would also have to step up to the plate. And as for the players union crying about losing the DH, all I can say is that if you can no longer play in the field, you are only half a ballplayer and you should retire or coach, and not get paid millions of dollars to strike out three times a game!

And if you think my facts are wrong, like Casey Stengel would say, "You can look it up."

**Tom Pressley
Lawrenceville, GA**

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OPENING DAY WALK-OFF HOMERS RESONATE SPECIAL MEMORIES

Baseball, for the vast majority of fans, might be described as a state of mind, a subjective condition in which certain players and certain games are frozen in time.

These players and games often leave an indelible imprint on the mind's eye of millions of fans who saw them firsthand, in many instances, during an age of impressionable youth.

One particular memory for a longtime fan dates back 40 years ago—April 14, 1978, to be precise. It was Opening Day at Wrigley Field in Chicago, where the Cubs hosted the Pittsburgh Pirates.

The two teams exchanged runs through the first seven innings and the game was tied at three before Willie Stargell led off the eighth frame with a go-ahead solo home run to give the Bucs a lead. The Cubs rallied in the bottom half of the inning to tie the game at four.

Then came the bottom of the ninth when leadoff hitter Larry Biittner hit a walk-off home run that caused more than 45,000 fans to jump out of their seats in euphoria.

The young fan recalling the event had just witnessed his first walk-off homer, and history would list Biittner's blast as the 21st Opening Day game-winning home run since 1908.

"It was a great moment," said Biittner. "One I'll never forget. I didn't start the game, but replaced Bill Buckner at first base in the second inning after he injured his leg on a double he hit in the first inning. I had a pretty good day at the plate. I tripled in my first at-bat off Jerry Reuss, but was thrown out at the plate when Dave Kingman hit a ball to shortstop Frank Taveras, who relayed it to catcher Manny Sanguillen," Biittner, 71, recalled.

"The game was tied as we got to the bottom of the ninth and I remember turning to manager Herman Franks and jokingly said, 'I'm just going to hit a home run and end this.'

"Jim Bibby was pitching and we were teammates in Texas in 1973," said Biittner, "and I knew he would come at me with a fastball. I jumped on the first pitch . . . a fastball and it went out of the park. That was pretty exciting and a very memorable moment in my career."

The events of that day created a childhood memory that kept the spirit of the game alive as the young fan grew into adulthood.

And with another season about to unfold, it might be appropriate to dig into the past and resurrect some other walk-off home runs achieved in home openers—a feat that has

been executed 44 times (1908-2017) in MLB history.

In 1954, Mickey Vernon became the third A.L. player to hit a walk-off homer on Opening Day. In that game, on April 13, the Senators were hosting the defending champion New York Yankees.

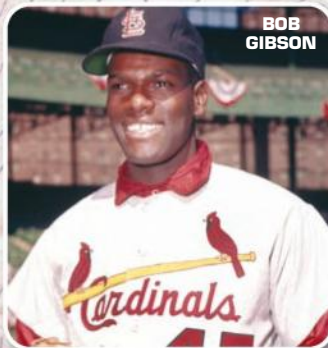
"I hit a home run to beat the Yankees in the 10th inning," Vernon, who died in 2008, once said of this special moment.

"Whitey Ford started the game, but Allie Reynolds was pitching in the late innings. After he walked our leadoff man, Eddie Yost, he struck out Tom Wright, and then I hit the homer to win the game, 5-3.

"I remember President Eisenhower threw out the first pitch and sent a couple of Secret Service men out onto the field after the game to

During his Hall of Fame career, Billy Williams hit five walk-off homers, but his most memorable came in the Cubs' home opener in 1971.

BILLY WILLIAMS



SportPics

grab me and take me to his box. He wanted to congratulate me. He always said I was his favorite player.

"I'll always remember that moment of hitting a game-winning homer on Opening Day in '54 and having the opportunity to be congratulated by Eisenhower."

On April 6, 1971, the Cubs and Cardinals were expected to be in a battle for division supremacy with the Pirates, who were the reigning N.L. East champs. As the season opened in Wrigley Field for the Cubs and St. Louis, it already had the feel of a playoff atmosphere with future Hall of Famers Fergie Jenkins and Bob Gibson opposing each other on the mound.

"That's what made that Opening Day homer so memorable," said Billy Williams, who clubbed a 10th-inning, one-out solo homer to win the game, 2-1.

"Both Gibson and Fergie pitched complete games and the score was tied going into the bottom of the 10th. I

remember it was very cold that day and temperatures just kept dropping because it was so windy. We had the lead going into the seventh inning when Joe Torre hit a home run to tie the game.

"I came up to bat after Glenn Beckert grounded out to lead off the 10th. I was looking for a slider down and on the inner half of the plate. I liked that pitch and Bob was stubborn and always challenged hitters. He threw me a down-and-in slider and I hit it good," Williams said.

"With the wind blowing in, I wasn't sure it was going out, so I ran hard down to first. As I was running and watching the ball, I'm yelling, 'Get up, get up, get up!' And just as I touched first base, I saw the fans jump up and the noise was deafening. The ball went into the right-field bleachers," as Williams pointed to the location of the ball.

"It felt good off the bat and when it landed in the bleachers to win the game, it felt even better. Especially

MIKE SCHMIDT

Opening Day Walk-Off Homers (1908-2017)

AMERICAN LEAGUE

PLAYER, TEAM	DATE	OPPOSING PITCHER, TEAM	HR	INNING	SCORE
Bill Knickerbocker, A's	April 17, 1942	Bill Zuber, Senators	Solo	10	5-4
Tommy Henrich, Yankees	April 19, 1949	Sid Hudson, Senators	Solo	9	3-2
Mickey Vernon, Senators	April 13, 1954	Allie Reynolds, Yankees	2-Run	10	5-3
Minnie Mino, White Sox	April 19, 1960	John Tsitouris, A's	Solo	9	10-9
Leon Wagner, Indians	April 21, 1965	Ron Piche, Angels	Solo	10	6-5
Toby Harrah, Rangers +	April 11, 1977	Dave LaRoche, Indians	Solo	10	3-2
Richie Zisk, Rangers	April 8, 1978	Goose Gossage, Yankees	Solo	9	2-1
Sixto Lezcano, Brewers	April 10, 1980	Dick Drago, Red Sox	Slam	9	9-5
Don Baylor, Yankees	April 16, 1985	Dan Spillner, White Sox	Solo	9	5-4
Jim Presley, Mariners	April 8, 1986	Ken Forsch, Angels	Slam	10	8-4
Mo Vaughn, Red Sox	April 10, 1998	Paul Spoljaric, Mariners	Slam	9	9-7
Jim Thome, Indians	April 10, 1998	Troy Percival, Angels	3-Run	10	8-5
Travis Fryman, Indians	April 12, 1999	Jose Santiago, Royals	3-Run	10	5-2
Tony Batista, Blue Jays	April 3, 2000	Jerry Spradlin, Royals	Solo	9	5-4
Carl Crawford, Devil Rays	April 31, 2003	Chad Fox, Red Sox	3-Run	9	6-4
Shannon Stewart, Twins	April 5, 2004	Chad Durbin, Indians	3-Run	11	7-4
Carlos Beltran, Royals	April 5, 2004	Damaso Marte, White Sox	2-Run	9	9-7
Mark Trumbo, Orioles	April 3, 2017	Jason Grilli, Blue Jays	Solo	11	3-2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

PLAYER, TEAM	DATE	OPPOSING PITCHER, TEAM	HR	INNING	SCORE
Mike Donlin, Giants	April 22, 1908	Harry McIntire, Dodgers	2-Run	9	3-2
Jimmy Sheppard, Cubs	April 20, 1912	George Suggs, Reds	Solo	10	5-4
Freddie Lindstrom, Pirates	April 24, 1934	Jesse Haines, Cardinals	3-Run	9	5-4
Andy Pafko, Dodgers	April 18, 1952	George Spencer, Giants	Solo	12	7-6
Bill Bruton, Braves	April 14, 1953	Gerry Staley, Cardinals	Solo	10	3-2
Bill Virdon, Cardinals	April 14, 1955	Dave Koslo, Braves	Solo	11	8-7
Chuck Essegian, Dodgers	April 12, 1960	Don Elston, Cubs	Solo	11	3-2
Sammy Taylor, Cubs	April 14, 1961	Bob Buhl, Braves	2-Run	9	3-2
Bob Bailey, Pirates	April 12, 1965	Juan Marichal, Giants	Solo	10	1-0
Willie Smith, Cubs	April 8, 1969	Barry Lersch, Phillies	2-Run	11	7-6
Billy Williams, Cubs	April 6, 1971	Bob Gibson, Cardinals	Solo	10	2-1
Mike Schmidt, Phillies	April 6, 1974	Tug McGraw, Mets	2-Run	9	5-4
Joe Ferguson, Astros	April 8, 1977	Bob Johnson, Braves	Solo	11	3-2
Larry Biittner, Cubs	April 14, 1978	Jim Bibby, Pirates	Solo	9	5-4
John Tamargo, Giants	April 10, 1979	John D'Acquisto, Padres	2-Run	9	4-2
Bill Robinson, Pirates	April 14, 1980	Bruce Sutter, Cubs	Solo	10	5-4
Gary Carter, Mets	April 9, 1985	Neil Allen, Cardinals	Solo	10	6-5
Dante Bichette, Rockies	April 26, 1995	Mike Remlinger, Mets	3-Run	14	11-9
Willie McGee, Cardinals	April 8, 1997	Ugueth Urbina, Expos	Solo	9	2-1
Raul Mondesi, Dodgers	April 5, 1999	John Frascatore, D-backs	2-Run	11	8-6
Joe Randa, Reds	April 4, 2005	Braden Loooper, Mets	Solo	9	7-6
Clint Barmes, Rockies	April 4, 2005	Trevor Hoffman, Padres	2-Run	9	12-10
Ryan Zimmerman, Nationals	March 30, 2008	Peter Moylan, Braves	Solo	9	3-2
Miguel Tejada, Astros	April 7, 2008	Kyle McClellan, Cardinals	2-Run	9	5-3
Ramon Hernandez, Reds	March 31, 2011	John Axford, Brewers	3-Run	9	7-6
Neil Walker, Pirates	March 31, 2014	Carlos Villanueva, Cubs	Solo	10	1-0

NOTE: Bill Bruton's homer hit off Enos Slaughter's glove and went over the fence + Inside-the-park homer (Mike Schmidt: AP Photo/Rusty Kennedy)



MIKEY VERNON
(AP Photo/File)



GARY CARTER
(AP Photo/Ray Stubblebine)

hitting it off one of the greatest pitchers in the game.”

Before the start of the 1974 season, the Phillies were encouraged that the club's three-year run of last-place finishes in the N.L. East were over. Philadelphia had some good, young talent and was hopeful its most prized player, third baseman Mike Schmidt, would become the dependable major-league star they envisioned.

Schmidt had just come off a difficult season in 1973. In his first 145 big-league games and 401 at-bats, he collected only 79 hits (.197 BA) with 19 homers and 55 RBI.

The 1974 season opened on April 6 with the Phillies hosting the New York Mets. Schmidt was getting his first Opening Day start playing third base and batting eighth in manager Danny Ozark's lineup.

Schmidt ended the '73 campaign hitless in his final 26 at-bats. To start the 1974 season, he went 0-for-3 through the first eight innings of the opener: reaching on an error in his first at-bat, striking out his second time up, and flying out to left field in his third plate appearance.

Then, in the bottom of the ninth with one out, Billy Grabarkewitz on second and the Phillies trailing 4-3, Schmidt stepped to the plate to face Mets star reliever Tug McGraw. The right-handed slugger had previously faced McGraw five times in his brief career, going 1-for-4 with a walk and bunt single.

“McGraw's going to have to try to get ahead of me in the count because Bill Robinson's on deck. I think he'd rather pitch to me than Robinson,” Schmidt recalled thinking as he stepped into the batter's box.

“The first pitch was a screwball that missed the plate. Then I guessed fastball and McGraw threw a low fastball in the strike zone where I like it.”

Schmidt powered the ball over the left-field wall for a game-winning walk-off homer.

“That hit turned around my life,” Schmidt said. “Coming off a 1973 season hitting .196, I was lucky to be in the majors. I was hitting eighth in the batting order and that home run kicked off what I feel was my best season ever. What a turn around ... from lost to the All-Star team. Funny thing

is that as my career progressed and Tug McGraw later became my teammate, he became one of my best friends.”

Schmidt finished the '74 season with a major-league-leading 36 home runs, 116 RBI, 108 runs scored, a .395 OBP and .282 BA. He finished sixth in MVP voting, an award he would win three times en route to a Hall of Fame career.

Before his Hall of Fame induction speech in 2003, Gary Carter reminisced about some of his career achievements with an inquiring reporter, who advised that it might be best to keep his speech short and sweet. “I won't be too long,” Carter said with his infectious smile, “but hey, it's my day in the sun.”

The catcher's career featured several magnificent performances, including his first game as a member of the New York Mets.

On April 9, 1985, with much anticipation from club officials and fans, Carter suited up with the Mets, who were looking to him to provide leadership and a spark to lead New York to a championship.

Carter delivered with a 2-for-4 performance that included a walk-off home run with one out in the bottom of the 10th off Cardinals reliever Neil Allen. The blast sent more than 46,000 fans into a frenzy and required Carter to come out of the dugout for a curtain call.

As Carter tugged off his home pinstriped jersey and let it drop on a stool in front of his locker after the game, he recalled being asked by reporters how it felt to win a ballgame with one stroke of the bat.

“It was one of my biggest thrills in baseball,” Carter said. “I felt just great when the ball left the bat. I couldn't have written a better script. To have a curtain call in my first game was really exciting, and I really believe it helped me settle in and it helped the team believe we had what it took to win a World Series title.

“That game is a special memory.”

Memories of the game will always be with us, and there is nothing wrong with that. A certain amount of reverence for the past is good, for what we have today is the product of many yesterdays. **BD**



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NO LEARNING CURVE

THREE NEW MANAGERS IN MUST-WIN MODE

*Dave Martinez of the Nationals,
Aaron Boone of the Yankees and Alex Cora
of the Red Sox are expected to guide
their teams to a World Series title*

By John Perrotto

Dave Martinez was standing in the back of the media room at the winter meetings, waiting to meet with reporters. A well-wisher congratulated Martinez on being hired as the new manager of the Washington Nationals a month earlier and jokingly reminded the former Chicago Cubs bench coach that ownership is expecting the first World Series appearance of the franchise's 49-year history in 2018.

"No pressure there, huh?" the perpetually upbeat Martinez said with a smile.

Oh, there will be plenty on pressure on Martinez this upcoming season, especially for a first-time manager. The same holds true for two other rookie managers in the New York Yankees' Aaron Boone and the Boston Red Sox' Alex Cora. Like the Nationals, both American League East rivals aspire to play in the Fall Classic after reaching the postseason in 2017.

Both the Nationals and Red Sox are coming off back-to-back division titles. The Yankees reached Game 7 of last year's American League Championship Series before falling to the eventual World Series champion Houston Astros, then traded with the Miami Marlins for N.L. MVP Giancarlo Stanton in December.

Yet, regular-season success isn't enough for the three franchises. That is why the Nationals fired Dusty Baker, the Yankees jettisoned Joe Girardi and the Red Sox axed John Farrell after their postseason exits.

"The Nationals are coming off two great seasons," Martinez said, referring to Washington winning 95 regular-season games in 2016 and 97 in 2017. "But it truly isn't

a great season unless you're the last team standing."

The Nationals have never been the last team standing since entering the N.L. as the expansion Montreal Expos in 1969. The Yankees won only one World Series title in Girardi's 10-year tenure, their lone championship since winning three in row from 1998-2000. The Red Sox captured the Fall Classic in 2013, Farrell's first season, then finished in last place the next two years before being eliminated in the American League Division Series in 2016 and 2017.

Boone's situation is particularly interesting. He has never managed or coached at any level, spending the past eight seasons working as a broadcaster for ESPN after his 12-year playing career as a third baseman ended in 2009. The 44-year-old wowed the Yankees during the interview process, however, and the team did not schedule any follow-ups with the other six candidates.

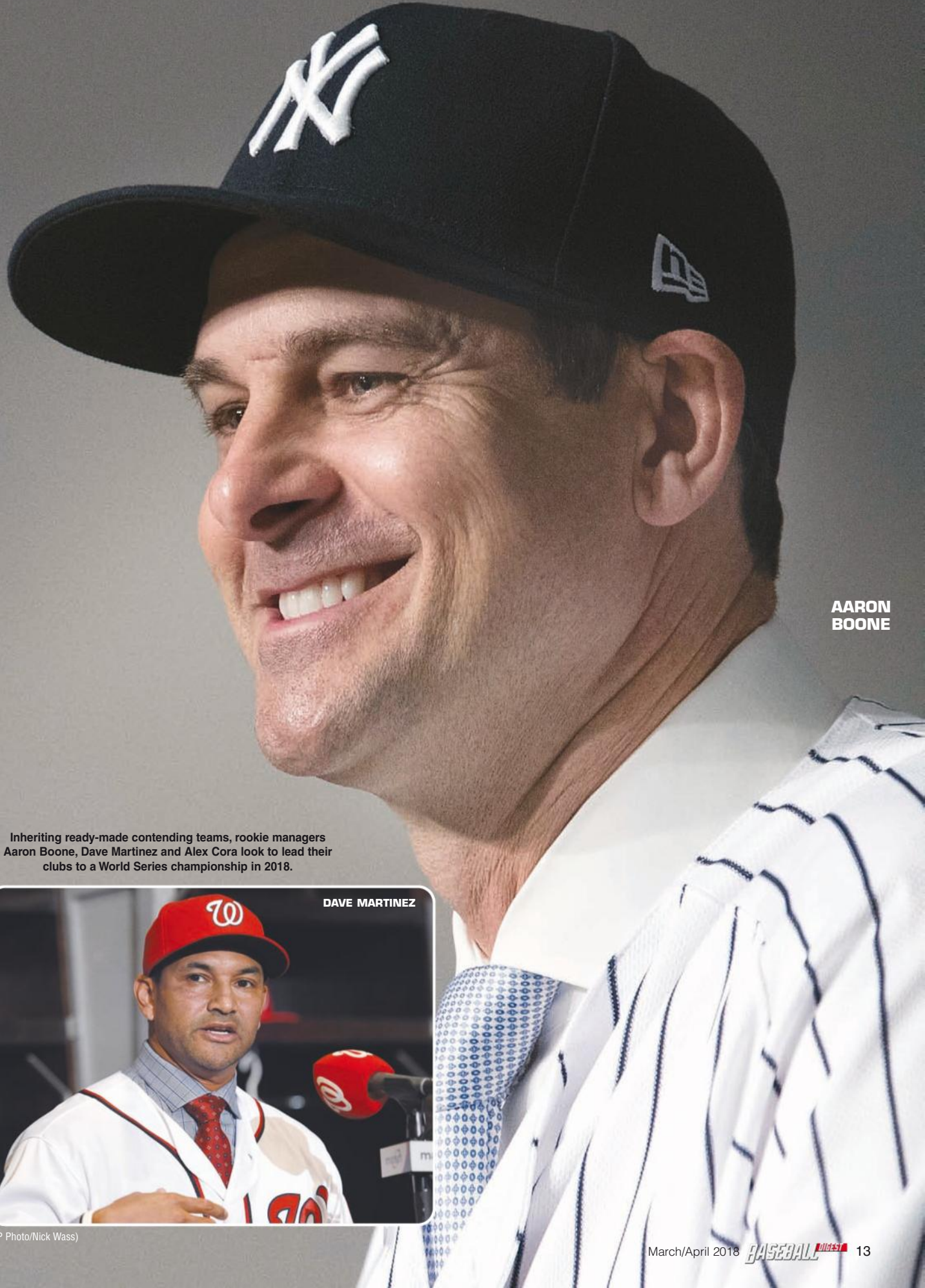
"There was a difference of opinion among the participants as to who their No. 2 or 3 choice was, but there was little-to-no difference of opinion as to who their No. 1 choice was," Yankees owner Hal Steinbrenner said. "It wasn't even close."

While Boone lacks managerial experience, he has been in major-league clubhouses since he was a toddler. His father Bob caught for 19 seasons from 1972-90 with the Philadelphia Phillies, California Angels and Kansas City Royals before spending three seasons each managing the Royals and Cincinnati Reds.

"I would say he's been the biggest influence on me in my life, just as a person, as a man, as a ballplayer, now as I go into this role," Boone said. "So, he's always somebody that



(AP Photo/Michael Dwyer)



**AARON
BOONE**

Inheriting ready-made contending teams, rookie managers Aaron Boone, Dave Martinez and Alex Cora look to lead their clubs to a World Series championship in 2018.



DAVE MARTINEZ

(AP Photo/Nick Wass)

NO LEARNING CURVE

I seek wisdom from. We've always had a very close relationship since growing up. He's my dad and someone that I look up to and really admire. He'll be someone that I always confide in and certainly seek out his advice."

Boone readily admits the game has changed since his father last managed in 2003. While Boone doesn't discount that being a shrewd strategist can give a manager an advantage, he believes communicating with the players is the most important aspect of the job.

"At the end of the day, you're in this seat, you're making quick decisions," Boone said. "I think it's important to be decisive in the decisions you're making, and it still comes down to relationships are a very important part of this game, of frankly whatever avenue you are in life. Relationships play a strong role. That's true today, as it was 20 years ago, as it was 50 years ago.

"I'm going to love my players and, hopefully, they'll love me."

No city can have a love-hate relationship with a manager quite like Boston, though Cora knows the landscape well as he played four seasons with the Red Sox (2005-08)

during a 14-year career that wrapped up in 2011.

The experience of calling Fenway Park home should aid the 42-year-old Cora, who also has limited experience in the dugout. He served as the bench coach for the Astros last season, following a five-year stint as an ESPN analyst. He's also managed in winter ball in his native Puerto Rico.

Cora grew up in Caguas, where his father organized the city's first Little League. Cora's older brother, Joey, was a major-league infielder for 11 years and is now the Pittsburgh Pirates' third-base coach.

"Boston, for a lot of people, is a challenge, but for me, it's not," Cora said. "(Boston) is a city where I understand they live baseball 24/7. But, you know what? I come from a country where they live baseball 24/7. In my family, for breakfast we talk baseball. For lunch we talk baseball. And for dinner, too."

Working in television might have once been considered an unconventional way to prepare for being a manager. However, Cora believes seeing the game's big picture in an analyst's role will be beneficial to both he and Boone.

"People think that that's an easy job. It's just get behind

Rookie Managers Who Inherited Playoff Teams

(1969-2017)

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Year	Team	Manager	W-L	Outcome	Replacement	Year	W-L	Outcome
1985	Blue Jays	Bobby Cox	99-62	Lost ALCS	Jimmy Williams	1986	86-76	4th place
1999	Indians	Mike Hargrove	97-65	Lost ALDS	Charlie Manuel	2000	90-72	2nd place
2002	A's	Art Howe	103-59	Lost ALDS	Ken Macha	2003	96-66	Lost ALDS
2006	A's	Ken Macha	93-69	Lost ALCS	Bob Geren	2007	76-86	3rd place
2013	Tigers	Jim Leyland	93-69	Lost ALCS	Brad Ausmus	2014	90-72	Lost ALDS
2017	Red Sox	John Farrell	93-69	Lost ALDS	Alex Cora	2018	—	—
2017	Yankees	Joe Girardi	91-71	Lost ALCS	Bret Boone	2018	—	—

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Year	Team	Manager	W-L	Outcome	Replacement	Year	W-L	Outcome
1995	Reds	Davey Johnson	85-59	Lost NLCS	Ray Knight	1996	81-81	3rd place
2006	Padres	Bruce Bochy	88-74	Lost NLDS	Bud Black	2007	89-74	3rd place
2011	Cardinals	Tony LaRussa	90-72	Won WS	Mike Matheny	2012	88-74	Lost NLCS
2013	Reds	Dusty Baker	90-72	Lost Wild Card	Bryan Price	2014	76-86	4th place
2015	Dodgers	Don Mattingly	92-70	Lost NLDS	Dave Roberts	2016	91-71	Lost NLCS
2017	Nationals	Dusty Baker	97-65	Lost NLDS	Dave Martinez	2018	—	—

NOTE: In 1980, the Yankees lost the NLCS with Dick Howser as the club's manager. Howser was replaced in 1981 by rookie manager Gene Michael, who was fired in September after New York struggled in the second part of the strike-interrupted campaign—even though the Yankees posted a 48-34 record under Michael. Bob Lemon took over for Michael and led the Yankees to the World Series, but N.Y. lost to the Dodgers in six games.



DON MATTINGLY

(AP Photo/Gregory Bull)



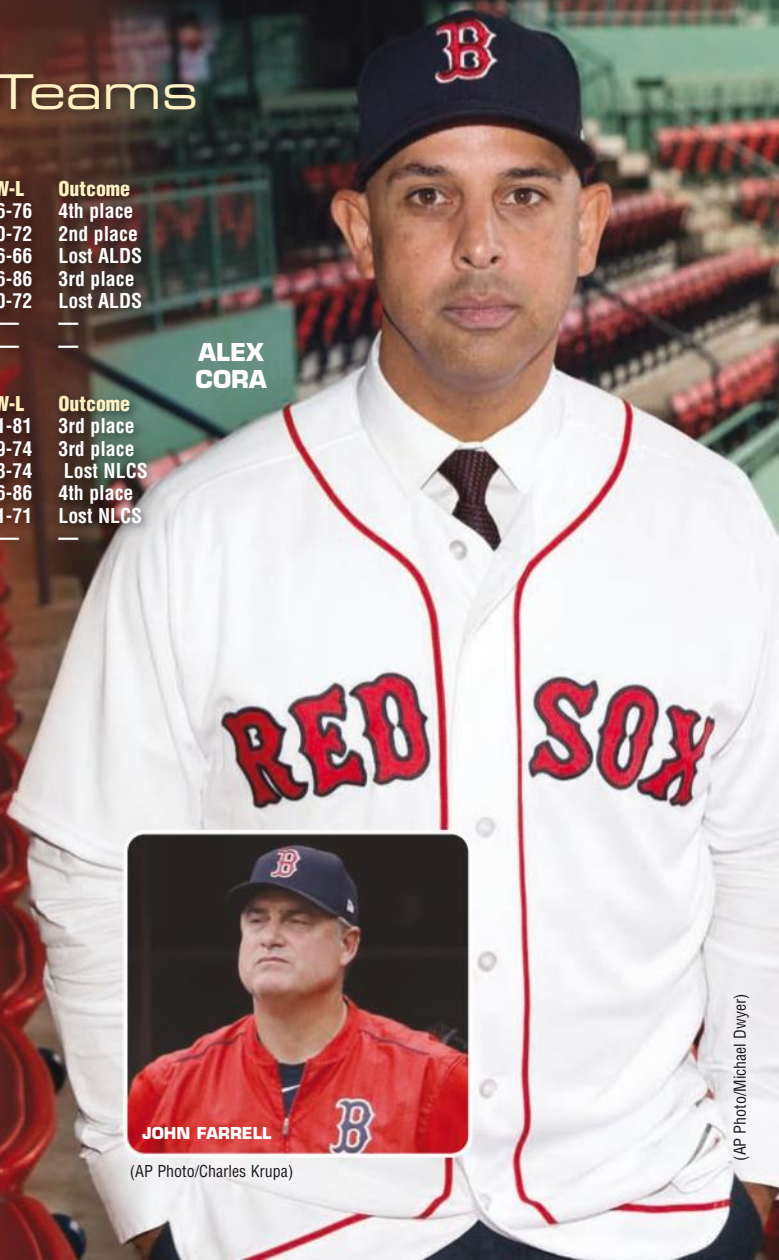
DAVE ROBERTS

(AP Photo/Alex Gallardo)



JOHN FARRELL

(AP Photo/Charles Krupa)



ALEX CORA

(AP Photo/Michael Dwyer)

that desk and put that tie on and just talk baseball,” Cora said. “It doesn’t work that way, man. The way I see it, that prepares us for this. It’s kind of like scouting reports. You got to know players.

“Actually, you know more about teams when you’re working on TV than actually as a coach. There were certain times (last) year that you get locked in as a bench coach, you get locked in—and in our case the A.L. West—that all of a sudden you go to Chicago and it’s a brand new team, a lot of young guys and you don’t have a feel of those players. When you were working, in our case, on (‘Baseball Tonight’), it seems like we knew everything. You had to be prepared.”

Martinez’ experience came on the field rather than in a studio. A major-league outfielder for 16 seasons from 1986-2001, he worked for the Tampa Bay Rays as a special instructor for two years and their bench coach for seven seasons before moving with manager Joe Maddon to the Cubs prior to the 2015 season.

The 53-year-old Martinez interviewed for managers’ jobs seven times before landing the Nationals’ gig. In fact, Washington talked to him following the 2013 season, but instead hired Arizona Diamondbacks bench coach Matt Williams.

Upon leaving Tampa Bay, Maddon recommended Martinez to Rays ownership as his replacement, but the job went to Cleveland Indians bullpen coach Kevin Cash.

“It’s his time. He’s ready,” Maddon said. “I gave him a lot to do. He was really involved in the defense every day, he was involved in outfield. He would stand by me during the game, was always listening in on the discussions for pitching changes, etc. Offensively he knew what I wanted. He was following the signs all the time. He would throw a suggestion out there. Just talking about the game stuff.

“Probably more importantly, he’s like, ‘How do you deal with the players themselves?’ I would ask him to have conversations with certain guys. Part of it was the fact that I should be the last voice to have to say that to somebody, and you try to send the intermediary out there first. Because the players, it’s funny how players react to the manager sometimes in a real frozen manner or they get like a concerned manner. Whereas if you send the messenger, they react to the messenger a little bit better. So, Davey was really good at delivering messages. I’m not just saying always harsh or bad, just in general.”

Martinez knows the message he is getting from his bosses is clear, and it’s the same one Boone and Cora are receiving—win now. Maddon has always been a big believer in embracing the pressure, which is how all three are approaching their first seasons in charge.

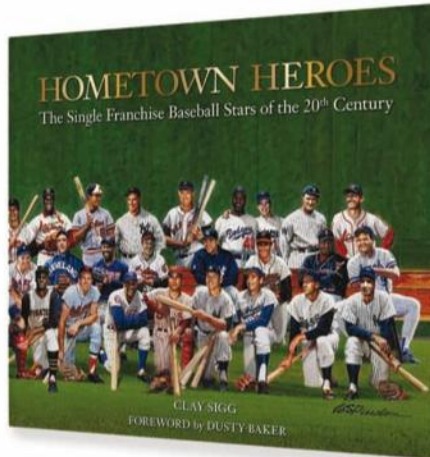
“Don’t permit the pressure to exceed the pleasures of the game,” Martinez



said. “We try to teach our players, ‘Hey, just have fun.’ They have been doing it since they were kids. Just go out there, be yourself and have fun doing it.


“It’s the same for the manager. If the manager isn’t relaxed and having fun, the players see it and it makes them more uptight. There is always going to be pressure in this game to succeed. There is probably a bit more when you have a team expected to win, but that’s a good kind of pressure.” **BD**

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ROOKIES TO WATCH



AP Photo/Jae C. Hong

SHOHEI OHTANI

Shohei Ohtani, Angels, RHP-OF

Will the Angels, who won the Ohtani sweepstakes, use the two-way prospect as a pitcher or outfielder—or both? The 23-year-old left-handed hitter flashed remarkable raw power over five seasons in the Japan Pacific League, but many scouts believe Ohtani has a higher upside as a pitcher and the Angels may use him in a six-man rotation to mimic his workload in Japan. He's coming off ankle surgery and has received a platelet-rich injection to treat a mild elbow strain, but when healthy, he throws a high-90s fastball, moving splitter and hard slider.

Willie Calhoun, Rangers, OF

Despite standing just 5-foot-8, the left-handed-hitting Calhoun has raked at every level since the Dodgers drafted him in 2015. He added power to the mix with 58 homers in the first two seasons, but less-promising defensive tools have made finding a position for the middle infielder a challenge. He moved to the outfield in 2017, and a move to the Rangers in July's Yu Darvish trade has opened a door to start in left field this season. He brings a live bat to Texas.

Dustin Fowler, Athletics, OF

Even with Stephen Piscotty's acquisition, a prospect could join the outfield of the ever-rebuilding A's this spring. That could be Fowler, who, along with fellow outfield prospect Jorge Mateo, arrived in July's Sonny Gray trade with the Yankees. Last season Fowler hit .293/.329/.542 for New York's Triple-A club, and totaled 19 doubles, eight triples, 18 homers and 13 steals in just 70 games before blowing out his knee running into a wall in his Yankees debut on June 29. The A's hope he'll be ready to go in camp.

A.J. Puk, Athletics, LHP

Only Kendall Graveman and Sean Manaea appear to be locks in Oakland's rotation, with several others battling for jobs. The 22-year-old Puk, drafted sixth overall in 2016, probably isn't in the spring mix. But after climbing to Double-A Midland in his first full season as a pro in 2017, the 6-foot-7 southpaw could soon reach Oakland. He posted a 4.03 ERA and 184 strikeouts over 125 innings at two levels, and gave up just three home runs. With better command, the hard-throwing Puk could develop into a staff ace.

Kyle Tucker, Astros, OF

Depth is a strength of the World Series champs, but even without an opening, Tucker should force his way to Houston soon. Drafted fifth overall in 2015, the high school product is one of the minors' elite hitting prospects. Before turning 21 in January, the left-handed hitter batted .274/.346/.528 with 33 doubles, 25 homers and 90 RBI in 120 games for high Class-A Bies Creek and Double-A Corpus Christi. The 6-foot-4 Tucker is a remarkably patient hitter with a quick bat and solid pitch recognition skills.



RUNS LEADER

During his first six full seasons in the major leagues (2012-2017), Mike Trout has scored more runs than any other big leaguer and has averaged 112 per year.

PLAYER, TEAM

PLAYER, TEAM	R
Mike Trout, Angels	672
Ian Kinsler, Tex./Det.	591
Paul Goldschmidt, Diamondbacks	586
Andrew McCutchen, Pirates	559
Edwin Encarnacion, Tor./Cle.	547
Justin Upton, Ari./Atl./S.D./Det./LAA	544
Matt Carpenter, Cardinals	542



AP Photo/Eric Christian Smith

JUSTIN UPTON

• Last season **Jose Altuve** of the Astros finished with 204 hits and 32 stolen bases to become the second player in MLB history to have four consecutive seasons with 200 or more hits and 30-plus steals. The only other player is Ichiro Suzuki, who reached those totals eight years in a row with the Mariners (2001-2008).

• Seattle's **Nelson Cruz** has belted the most home runs since 2013 with 193—a season average of 38.6 homers per year. Trailing Cruz during that span are Chris Davis (190), Edwin Encarnacion (189), Giancarlo Stanton (174) and Mike Trout (166).



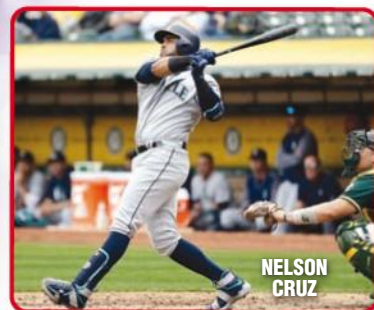
MIKE TROUT

AP Photo/Tony Gutierrez



JED LOWRIE

AP Photo/Stephen Brashear



NELSON CRUZ

AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez

DID YOU KNOW . . . Jed Lowrie of the A's became the 18th player, since 1900, to finish a season one double shy of 50? Lowrie clubbed 49 two-base hits in 2017, a total collected 10 times in the American League and nine times in the National League. Todd Helton is the only player to hit 49 doubles in multiple seasons (2003, 2004).

DID YOU KNOW . . . Mark McLemore is the only player in MLB history to play for all five A.L. West Division franchises? McLemore played for the Angels (1986-1990), Astros (1991), Rangers (1995-1999), Mariners (2000-2003) and A's (2004) in his 19-year career.

HOUSTON ASTROS

World Series Titles: 1
Pennants: 2
Division Titles: 7
Wins: 4,391
Losses: 4,552
100-W Seasons: 2
100-L Seasons: 3



CRAIG BIGGIO

FRANCHISE LEADERS

HR: Jeff Bagwell (449)
H: Craig Biggio (3,060)
RBI: Jeff Bagwell (1,529)
W: Joe Niekro (144)
SO: Nolan Ryan (1,866)
Svs: Billy Wagner (225)

LOS ANGELES ANGELS

World Series Titles: 1
Pennants: 1
Division Titles: 9
Wins: 4,557
Losses: 4,547
100-W Seasons: 1
100-L Seasons: 0



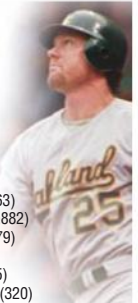
TIM SALMON

FRANCHISE LEADERS

HR: Tim Salmon (299)
H: Garret Anderson (2,368)
RBI: Garret Anderson (1,292)
W: Chuck Finley (165)
SO: Nolan Ryan (2,416)
Svs: Troy Percival (316)

OAKLAND A'S

World Series Titles: 9
Pennants: 14
Division Titles: 16
Wins: 8,834
Losses: 9,322
100-W Seasons: 10
100-L Seasons: 16



MARK MCGWIRE

FRANCHISE LEADERS

HR: Mark McGwire (363)
H: Bert Campaneris (1,882)
RBI: Al Simmons (1,179)
W: Eddie Plank (284)
SO: Nolan Ryan (1,985)
Svs: Dennis Eckersley (320)

SEATTLE MARINERS

World Series Titles: 0
Pennants: 0
Division Titles: 3
Wins: 3,062
Losses: 3,455
100-W Seasons: 1
100-L Seasons: 5



FELIX HERNANDEZ

FRANCHISE LEADERS

HR: Ken Griffey (417)
H: Ichiro Suzuki (2,433)
RBI: Edgar Martinez (1,261)
W: Felix Hernandez (160)
SO: Felix Hernandez (2,342)
Svs: Kazuhiro Sasaki (129)

TEXAS RANGERS

World Series Titles: 0
Pennants: 2
Division Titles: 8
Wins: 4,355
Losses: 4,733
100-W Seasons: 0
100-L Seasons: 6



MICHAEL YOUNG

FRANCHISE LEADERS

HR: Juan Gonzalez (372)
H: Michael Young (2,230)
RBI: Juan Gonzalez (1,180)
W: Charlie Hough (139)
SO: Charlie Hough (1,452)
Svs: John Wetteland (150)

AMERICAN LEAGUE

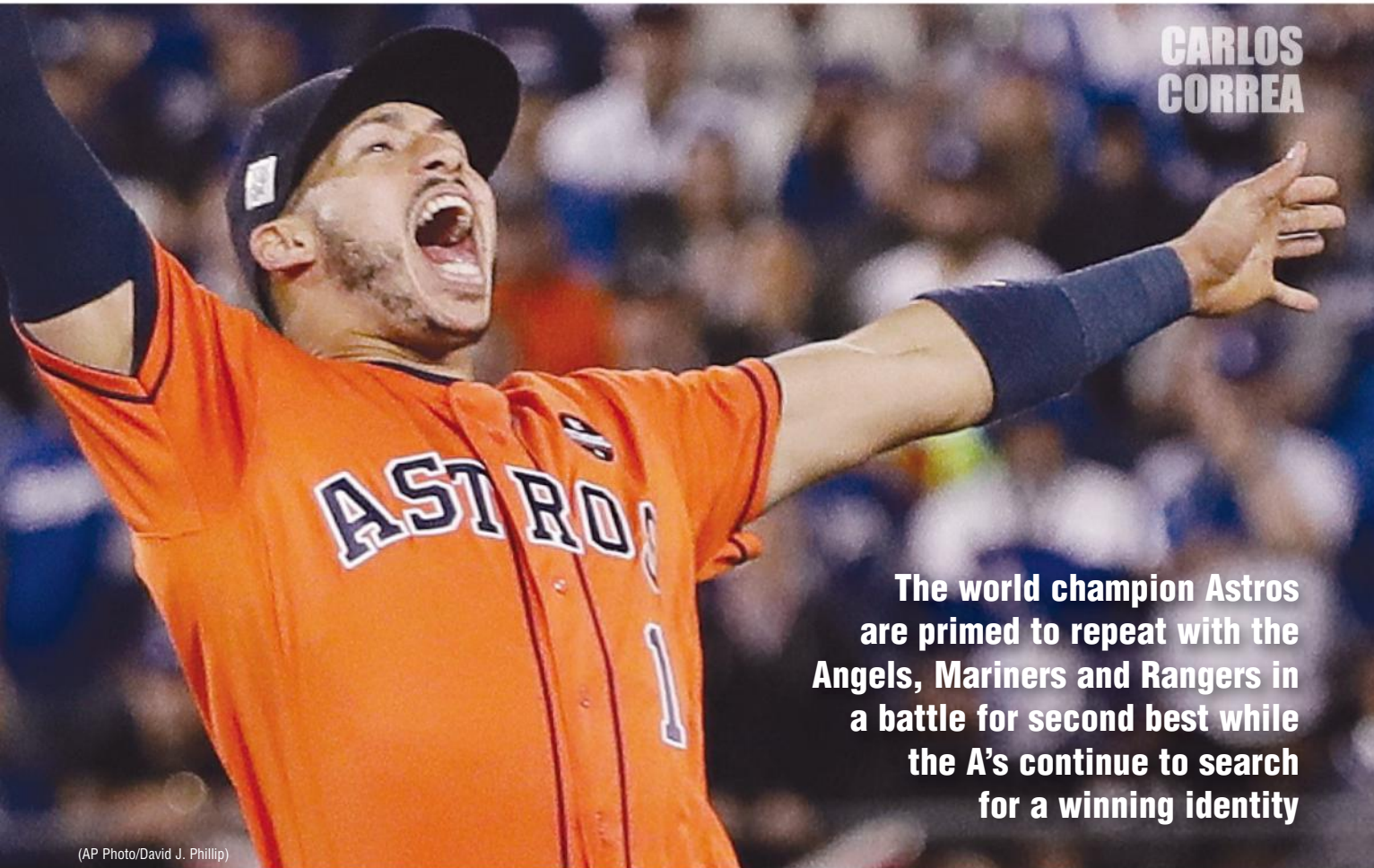
WEST DIVISION PREVIEW

By Pedro Moura, *Los Angeles Times*

The American League West contains the reigning World Series winner and the team that pulled off the biggest offseason surprise. The favorite to win the division again, of course, must be the Houston Astros, who survived back-to-back seven-game series to become champions and kept the core of their club intact for another run in 2018. But they may be more challenged this year than last, and there's a bit of a reckoning coming,

with what the Astros have assembled in Houston. That's why the Mariners are attempting to execute a rare mid-career position switch with Dee Gordon, moving him from second base to center field. That's why the Angels are moving one of baseball's best defensive shortstops, Zack Cozart, to third base to assemble an otherworldly infield defense.

It's clear that these teams know that Verlander and Keuchel make for quite the tandem to start off a starting



CARLOS CORREA

The world champion Astros are primed to repeat with the Angels, Mariners and Rangers in a battle for second best while the A's continue to search for a winning identity

(AP Photo/David J. Phillip)

with Dallas Keuchel soon to be a free agent, Gerrit Cole not far behind him, and Justin Verlander not likely to improve as he ages.

This year, the Angels, Rangers and Mariners all have designs on challenging for a wild-card position, and all three were finalists for Shohei Ohtani. The Athletics appear stuck in the same sort of limbo that has become their trademark in recent seasons. They're not bad enough to earn, say, the No. 1 pick, but it's difficult to envision a path they could take to 85 wins.

The West teams know they must take risks to compete

rotation for now, and that the Astros lineup will be vicious for at least a few years to come. Even the Astros are trying some unusual methods these days, trying to turn failed outfielder Anthony Gose into their left-handed specialist.

In evaluating these five teams, it's clear this will be one of baseball's better divisions in 2018. Compared to the climate of the National League, there's nothing resembling the 100-loss potential that runs rampant over there. Maybe what will swing the wild-card hunt will be the health of each team's starting pitching. That's often the deciding factor in division races. **BD**



**JOSE
ALTUVE**



40-MAN ROSTER

Major-league roster on Feb. 4 • Uniform numbers subject to change

Manager: A.J. Hinch (14)
Coaches: Hitting—Dave Hudgen (39), Jeff Albert (46), Pitching—Brent Strom (56), 1B—Alex Cintron (37), 3B—Gary Pettis (8), Bench—Joe Espada (20), Bullpen—Doug White (55)

NO.	PITCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
54	Buddy Boshers	L/L	6'3"	205	5/9/88
45	Gerrit Cole	R/R	6'4"	225	9/8/90
47	Chris Devenski	R/R	6'3"	210	11/13/90
53	Ken Giles	R/R	6'2"	205	9/20/90
26	Anthony Gose	L/L	6'1"	190	8/10/90
64	Reymin Guduan	L/L	6'4"	205	3/16/92
61	Jandel Gustave	R/R	6'2"	210	10/12/92
36	Will Harris	R/R	6'4"	250	8/28/84
51	James Hoyt	R/R	6'6"	230	9/30/86
60	Dallas Keuchel	L/L	6'3"	205	1/1/88
58	Francis Martes	R/R	6'1"	225	11/24/95
43	Lance McCullers Jr.	L/R	6'1"	205	10/2/93
31	Collin McHugh	R/R	6'2"	190	6/19/87
50	Charlie Morton	R/R	6'5"	235	11/12/83
63	David Paulino	R/R	6'7"	215	2/6/94
41	Brad Peacock	R/R	6'1"	210	2/2/88
83	Cionel Perez	L/L	5'11"	170	4/21/96
62	Brady Rodgers	R/R	6'2"	210	9/17/90
30	Hector Rondon	R/R	6'3"	230	2/26/88
29	Tony Sipp	L/L	6'0"	190	7/12/83
38	Joe Smith	R/R	6'2"	205	3/22/84
35	Justin Verlander	R/R	6'5"	225	2/20/83

NO.	CATCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
11	Evan Gattis	R/R	6'4"	270	8/18/86
16	Brian McCann	L/R	6'3"	225	2/20/84
12	Max Stassi	R/R	5'10"	200	3/15/91

NO.	INFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
27	Jose Altuve	R/R	5'6"	165	5/6/90
2	Alex Bregman	R/R	6'0"	180	3/30/94
1	Carlos Correa	R/R	6'4"	215	9/22/94
28	J.D. Davis	R/R	6'3"	225	4/27/93
10	Yuli Gurriel	R/R	6'0"	190	6/9/84
18	Tony Kemp	L/R	5'6"	165	10/31/91
23	A.J. Reed	L/L	6'4"	275	5/10/93
13	Tyler White	R/R	5'11"	225	10/29/90

NO.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
21	Derek Fisher	L/R	6'3"	205	8/21/93
9	Marwin Gonzalez	S/R	6'1"	205	3/14/89
6	Jake Marisnick	R/R	6'4"	220	3/30/91
22	Josh Reddick	L/R	6'2"	195	2/19/87
4	George Springer	R/R	6'3"	215	9/19/89

(AP photo/David J. Phillip)

1. HOUSTON ASTROS

It is clear why the Astros did not tinker all that much with their roster: it's really good. Their bullpen was lackluster in the playoffs, to be sure, but it's not like the talent of Ken Giles and Chris Devenski has evaporated. Those right-handed relievers can be counted on in 2018, as can December acquisition Joe Smith, who has been one of baseball's steadiest relievers over the last decade. Hector Rondon represents an interesting gamble in the bullpen for a reasonable cost. He has had success before.

The big addition, Gerrit Cole, has been a force for much of his major-league career, and Lance McCullers was a force in the postseason. If McCullers could pitch like that—maybe with not so many curveballs—more often, Houston should be in phenomenal shape. At his best, he flirts with dominance. The same can be said for Charlie Morton, against all odds, and aren't the Astros glad they signed him to a two-year deal before the 2017 season?

On offense, merely replacing Carlos Beltran with any number of in-house options would probably represent an on-field improvement, but Beltran's clubhouse presence was so widely cited that it's worth monitoring. Will his absence negatively affect the team?

In October, Alex Bregman showed the world that he is confident and that he is good, and those traits should con-

tinue as he emerges as a bona fide star at third base. He's good at everything—hitting, fielding and baserunning. He's like Jose Altuve in that way, and Carlos Correa, too, actually. The Astros' assemblage of infielders is a bit out of control. At first base, Yuli Gurriel can really hit, too, just not for all that much power. And, if any of them get hurt, Marwin Gonzalez can also step in at any position. For manager A.J. Hinch, it's quite the set-up, and he has proven adept at maneuvering his talent in functional ways.

It's difficult to see the Astros failing to qualify for the playoffs, barring a massive rash of injuries. **BD**

2018 SCHEDULE

MARCH	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
29, 30, 31 @ Tex.	1, 2, 3 N.Y.	1, 2, 3 Bos.	1 Chi.	1 @ T.B.	1, 2 L.A.
APRIL	4, 5, 6 @ Ari.	5, 6 Sea.	3, 4 @ Tex.	@ Tex.	3, 4, 5 Min.
1 @ Tex.	7, 8, 9 @ Oak.	7, 8, 9, 10 @ Tex.	5, 6, 7, 8 @ Oak.	Chi.	7, 8, 9 @ Bos.
2, 3, 4 Bal.	11, 12, 13 Tex.	12, 13, 14 @ Oak.	9, 10, 11, 12 @ K.C.	Oak.	10, 11, 12 @ Det.
6, 7, 8 S.D.	14, 15, 16 @ L.A.	15, 16, 17 @ L.A.	13, 14, 15 T.B.	Det.	14, 15, 16 Ari.
9, 10, 11 @ Tex.	18, 19, 20 Cle.	18, 19, 20 T.B.	20, 21, 22 Tor.	@ L.A.	17, 18, 19 Sea.
13, 14, 15 Tex.	22, 23 S.F.	22, 23, 24 K.C.	24, 25 @ Col.	@ Col.	21, 22, 23 L.A.
16, 17, 18, 19 @ Sea.	24, 25, 26, 27 @ Cle.	25, 26, 27 Tor.	27, 28, 29 @ T.B.	Tex.	24, 25, 26 @ Tor.
20, 21, 22 @ Chi.	28, 29, 30 @ N.Y.	28, 29, 30 @ T.B.		@ Sea.	27, 28, 29, 30 @ Bal.
23, 24, 25 L.A.	31 Bos.			Oak.	
27, 28, 29 Oak.				30, 31 L.A.	
30 N.Y.					

Boldface indicates interleague games. All-Star Game is on July 17 in Washington, D.C.



MIKE
TROUT

40-MAN ROSTER

Major-league roster on Feb. 4 • Uniform numbers subject to change

Manager: Mike Scioscia (14)

Coaches: Hitting—Eric Hinske (77), Paul Sorrento (55), Pitching—Charles Nagy (41), 1B—Alfredo Griffin (3), 3B—Dino Ebel (21), Bench—Josh Paul (88), Bullpen—Scott Radinsky (63), Coach—Steve Soliz (61)

NO.	PITCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
48	Jose Alvarez	L/L	5'11"	190	5/6/89
90	Luke Bard	R/R	6'3"	202	11/13/90
72	Jaime Barria	R/R	6'1"	210	7/18/96
32	Cam Bedrosian	R/R	6'0"	230	10/2/91
62	Parker Bridwell	R/R	6'4"	185	8/2/91
71	Jesus Castillo	R/R	6'2"	165	8/27/95
57	Dayan Diaz	R/R	5'10"	195	2/10/89
28	Andrew Heaney	L/L	6'2"	195	6/5/91
74	Jake Jewell	R/R	6'3"	200	5/16/93
33	Jim Johnson	R/R	6'6"	250	6/27/83
23	Alex Meyer	R/R	6'9"	225	1/3/90
39	Keynan Middleton	R/R	6'2"	185	9/12/93
17	Shohei Ohtani	R/L	6'3"	189	7/5/94
60	Eduardo Paredes	R/R	6'1"	170	3/6/95
53	Blake Parker	R/R	6'3"	225	6/19/85
64	Felix Pena	R/R	6'2"	185	2/25/90
66	JC Ramirez	R/R	6'4"	250	8/16/88
25	Noe Ramirez	R/R	6'3"	205	12/22/89
43	Garrett Richards	R/R	6'3"	210	5/27/88
38	Troy Scribner	R/R	6'3"	190	7/2/91
52	Matt Shoemaker	R/R	6'2"	225	9/27/86
45	Tyler Skaggs	L/L	6'4"	215	7/13/91
35	Nick Tropeano	R/R	6'4"	200	8/27/90
46	Blake Wood	R/R	6'5"	233	8/8/85

NO.	CATCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
13	Juan Graterol	R/R	6'1"	205	2/14/89
12	Martin Maldonado	R/R	6'0"	230	8/16/86
58	Carlos Perez	R/R	6'0"	210	10/27/90
44	Rene Rivera	R/R	5'10"	215	7/31/83

NO.	INFELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
22	Kaleb Cowart	S/R	6'3"	225	6/2/92
7	Zack Cozart	R/R	6'0"	204	8/12/85
24	C.J. Cron	R/R	6'4"	235	1/5/90
49	Nolan Fontana	L/R	5'11"	195	6/6/91
3	Ian Kinsler	R/R	6'0"	200	6/22/82
19	Jefry Marte	R/R	6'1"	220	6/21/91
5	Albert Pujols	R/R	6'3"	240	1/16/80
2	Andrelton Simmons	R/R	6'2"	200	9/4/89
18	Luis Valbuena	L/R	5'10"	215	11/30/85

NO.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
56	Kole Calhoun	L/L	5'10"	205	10/14/87
84	Michael Hermosillo	R/R	5'11"	190	1/17/95
27	Mike Trout	R/R	6'2"	235	8/7/91
8	Justin Upton	R/R	6'2"	205	8/25/87

(AP Photo/Reed Saxon)

2. LOS ANGELES ANGELS

To the surprise of many, the Angels added Japanese two-way sensation Shohei Ohtani in December, and they plan to use him as a two-way player in 2018. Pitching will be his primary way, but even 200 plate appearances featuring his left-handed power could prove fruitful. General manager Billy Eppler appears to have improved the rest of the club, too: a full season of Justin Upton will make them better, as will Ian Kinsler's proven bat at second base.

The Angels defense should again be a strength, as catcher Martin Maldonado boasts perhaps the strongest arm at his position and shortstop Andrelton Simmons offers perhaps the best all-around defensive package in baseball.

Offensively, the Angels may still be lacking some punch. Albert Pujols, their primary designated hitter, has slimmed down some, but he is 38 years old and was one of the sport's worst hitters a year ago. At first base, C.J. Cron also lacks the offensive profile typical at the position. Of course, there is Mike Trout, perennially one of baseball's best players, and Kole Calhoun has been a dependable presence so far in his career.

As it has the last two years, what will determine the Angels' success this season is the health of their starting rotation. Ohtani will be pitching through a slight tear in his elbow, and fellow top-of-the-rotation starter Garrett Richards missed most of the 2016 and 2017 seasons due to

arm issues. There is no saying whether either man will be able to shoulder even a 150-inning workload in 2018, and Matt Shoemaker, Tyler Skaggs and Andrew Heaney have all suffered recent injuries, too.

But they are all healthy now. It's just a matter of whether they can stay that way. In the bullpen, 2017 breakout reliever Blake Parker returns and figures to split save chances with young options Keynan Middleton and Cam Bedrosian. The Angels found success with bullpen bargains a year ago, and are attempting to repeat their feat in 2018.

All told, they seem like a wild-card favorite in the American League. **BD**

2018 SCHEDULE

MARCH	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
29, 30, 31 @ Oak.	1, 2, 3 Bal. 4, 5, 6 @ Sea.	1, 2, 3 Tex. 4, 5, 6 K.C.	1 @ Bal. 3, 4, 5 @ Sea.	1, 2 @ T.B. 3, 4, 5 @ Cle.	1, 2 @ Hou. 3, 4, 5 @ Tex.
APRIL	8, 9 @ Col.	8, 9, 10 @ Min.	6, 7, 8 @ L.A.	6, 7, 8 Det.	7, 8, 9 @ Chi.
1 @ Oak.	10, 11, 12, 13 Min.	11, 112, 13 @ Sea.	10, 11, 12 @ L.A.	10, 11, 12 Oak.	10, 11, 12 Tex.
2, 3, 4 Cle.	14, 15, 16 Hou.	15, 16, 17 @ Oak.	13, 14, 15 @ S.D.	13, 14, 15 @ S.D.	13, 14, 15, 16 Sea.
6, 7, 8 Oak.	17, 18, 19, 20 T.B.	18, 19 Ari.	20, 21, 22 Hou.	16, 17, 18, 19 @ Tex.	18, 19, 20 @ Oak.
9, 10, 11 @ Tex.	22, 23, 24 @ Tor.	21, 22, 23, 24 Tor.	23, 24, 25, 26 Chi.	21, 22 @ Ari.	21, 22, 23 @ Hou.
12, 13, 14, 15 @ K.C.	25, 26, 27 @ N.Y.	26, 27, 28 @ Bos.	27, 28, 29 Sea.	24, 25, 26 Hou.	24, 25, 26 Tex.
17, 18, 19 Bos.	28, 29, 30, 31 @ Det.	29, 30 @ Bal.	31 @ T.B.	27, 28 Col.	28, 29, 30 Oak.
20, 21, 22 S.F.				30, 31 @ Hou.	
23, 24, 25 @ Hou.					
27, 28, 29 N.Y.					

Boldface indicates interleague games. All-Star Game is on July 17 in Washington, D.C.



**ROBINSON
CANO**

40-MAN ROSTER

Major-league roster on Feb. 4 • Uniform numbers subject to change

Manager: Scott Servais (9)

Coaches: Hitting—Edgar Martinez (11), Pitching—Mel Stottlemyre (30), 1B—Chris Prieto (88), 3B—Scott Brosius (29), Bench—Manny Acta (14), Bullpen—Brian DeLunas (--), Coach—Jim Brower (--)

NO.	PITCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
53	Dan Altavilla	R/R	5'11"	200	9/8/92
--	Shawn Armstrong	R/R	6'2"	225	9/11/90
--	Chasen Bradford	R/R	6'1"	229	8/5/89
35	Chase De Jong	L/R	6'4"	205	12/29/93
39	Edwin Diaz	R/R	6'3"	165	3/22/94
32	Marco Gonzales	L/L	6'1"	195	2/16/92
34	Felix Hernandez	R/R	6'3"	225	4/8/86
8	Mike Leake	R/R	5'10"	170	11/12/87
37	Ariel Miranda	L/L	6'2"	190	1/10/89
62	Sam Moll	L/L	5'10"	185	1/3/92
48	Andrew Moore	R/R	6'0"	185	6/2/94
64	Mike Morin	R/R	6'4"	220	5/3/91
12	Juan Nicasio	R/R	6'4"	252	8/31/86
65	James Paxton	L/L	6'4"	235	11/6/88
47	James Pazos	R/L	6'2"	235	5/5/91
46	David Phelps	R/R	6'2"	200	10/9/86
68	Max Povse	R/R	6'8"	185	8/23/93
31	Erasmus Ramirez	R/R	5'10"	215	5/2/90
--	Nick Rumbelow	R/R	6'0"	190	9/6/91
25	Marc Rzepczynski	L/L	6'2"	220	8/29/85
50	Nick Vincent	R/R	6'0"	185	7/12/86
63	Rob Whalen	R/R	6'2"	220	1/31/94
55	Tony Zych	R/R	6'3"	190	8/7/90

NO.	CATCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
--	David Freitas	R/R	6'3"	225	3/18/89
28	Mike Marjama	R/R	6'2"	205	7/20/89
3	Mike Zunino	R/R	6'2"	220	3/25/91

NO.	INFELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
22	Robinson Cano	L/R	6'0"	210	10/22/82
--	Mike Ford	L/R	6'0"	225	7/4/92
--	Ryon Healy	R/R	6'5"	225	1/10/92
21	Taylor Motter	R/R	6'1"	195	9/18/89
27	Andrew Romine	S/R	6'1"	200	12/24/85
15	Kyle Seager	L/R	6'0"	210	11/3/87
2	Jean Segura	R/R	5'10"	205	3/17/90
20	Daniel Vogelbach	L/R	6'0"	250	12/17/92

NO.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
23	Nelson Cruz	R/R	6'2"	230	7/1/80
16	Ben Gamel	L/L	5'11"	185	5/17/92
9	Dee Gordon	L/R	5'11"	170	4/22/88
17	Mitch Haniger	R/R	6'2"	215	12/23/90
5	Guillermo Heredia	R/L	5'10"	180	1/31/91
30	Cameron Perkins	R/R	6'5"	195	9/27/90

(AP Photo/Elaine Thompson)

3. SEATTLE MARINERS

General manager Jerry Dipoto has worked for two teams in this division, manager Scott Servais three, and surely both men were displeased to see Shohei Ohtani's decision in early December. Not only did he not pick Seattle as his major-league home, but he picked the team that last employed both Dipoto and Servais. Now they have to face him on the mound and in the batter's box pretty much every month for years to come.

In his second act as a lead executive, Dipoto has generated quite the reputation as a dealer. Many of his moves are non-traditional in that they are only small tinkers, made with the intention of slightly improving the club. If they all work out, then the whole effort could buoy the Mariners into contention. But a few of them are bound to backfire, as some already have.

Obviously, Chris Taylor has provided a lot more value to the Dodgers than Zach Lee will ever supply to Seattle, because Lee is long gone. Left-hander Marco Gonzalez has some value, but Tyler O'Neill, dealt to St. Louis for him in 2017, looks like the kind of bat Seattle could benefit from going forward.

The pitching staff seems below-average. Felix Hernandez

is not the ace he once was. James Paxton could theoretically replace him if he could stay healthy, but he's given no indications that he is capable of that for long stretches of time. Who else, then? Hisashi Iwakuma, on a minor-league deal? The perpetually serviceable Mike Leake? Erasmo Ramirez or Ariel Miranda?

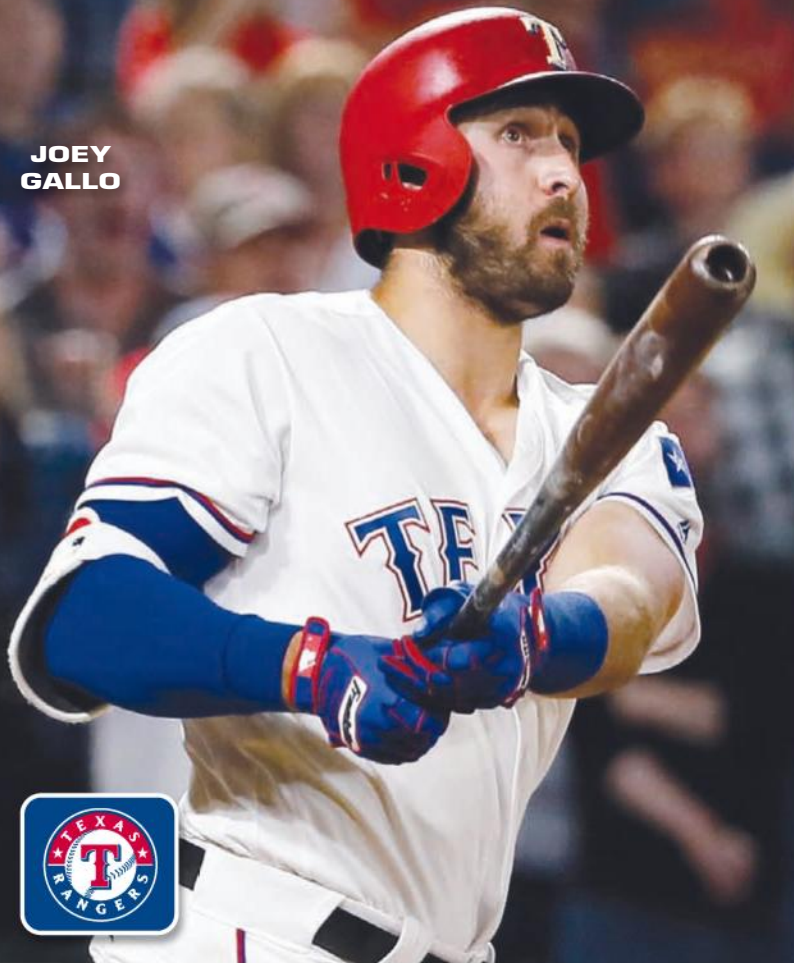
This is a team in flux, with a substandard farm system, two aging stars, and just not enough apparent talent to project success. It's hard to see a way out for Dipoto and the Mariners, though he will certainly make more moves to try. That's the way it goes in the Pacific Northwest. **BD**

2018 SCHEDULE

MARCH	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
29, 31 @ Cle.	1, 2, 3 Oak.	1, 2, 3 T.B.	1 K.C.	1 Hou.	1, 2 @ Oak.
1 @ Cle.	4, 5, 6 L.A.	5, 6 @ Hou.	3, 4, 5 L.A.	2, 3, 4, 5 Tor.	3, 4, 5 Bal.
3, 4 @ S.F.	8, 9, 10 @ Tor.	7, 8, 9, 10 @ T.B.	6, 7, 8 Col.	6, 7, 8 @ Tex.	7, 8, 9 N.Y.
5, 7, 8 @ Min.	11, 12, 13 @ Det.	11, 12, 13 L.A.	10, 11, 12 @ L.A.	9, 10, 11, 12 @ Hou.	11, 12 S.D.
9, 10, 11 @ K.C.	15, 16 Tex.	14, 15, 16, 17 Bos.	13, 14, 15 @ Col.	13, 14, 15 @ Oak.	13, 14, 15, 16 @ L.A.
13, 14, 15 Oak.	17, 18, 19, 20 Det.	19, 20, 21 @ N.Y.	20, 21, 22 Chi.	17, 18, 19 L.A.	17, 18, 19 @ Hou.
16, 17, 18, 19 Hou.	22, 23, 24 @ Oak.	22, 23, 24 @ Bos.	24, 25 S.F.	20, 21, 22 Hou.	21, 22, 23 @ Tex.
20, 21, 22 @ Tex.	25, 26, 27 Min.	25, 26, 27, 28 @ Bal.	27, 28, 29 @ L.A.	24, 25, 26 @ Ari.	24, 25, 26 Oak.
23, 24, 25 @ Chi.	28, 29, 30, 31 Tex.	29, 30 K.C.	30, 31 Hou.	28, 29 @ S.D.	27, 28, 29, 30 Tex.
26, 27, 28, 29 @ Cle.				30, 31 @ Oak.	

Boldface indicates interleague games. All-Star Game is on July 17 in Washington, D.C.

JOEY GALLO



4. TEXAS RANGERS

Like the Angels, the Rangers are flirting with a six-man starting rotation, and their reasons don't even involve Shohei Ohtani. It seems they think the solution to their long-standing pitching problems might be allowing their pitchers more rest between starts. That could work. It's not like anything else they have been trying works. So, they are taking chances on the likes of Matt Moore and Doug Fister, pitchers who have been good before but were not particularly good in 2017. Or, in the case of starter-turned-reliever-turned-starter Mike Minor, pitchers who will attempt to succeed in new ways. The Rangers still lack top talent there. Cole Hamels is a reliable arm to have in your rotation, but he's not an ace anymore, and he hasn't been for quite a while.

For all of their issues in the rotation and in the bullpen, their lineup remains dangerous. The rejuvenated Elvis Andrus is a threat, as is the ageless Adrian Beltre. In right field, Nomar Mazara has not matched the output of his

40-MAN ROSTER

Major-league roster on Feb. 4 • Uniform numbers subject to change

Manager: Jeff Banister (28)

Coaches: Hitting—Anthony Lapoche (9), Justin Mashore (0), Pitching—Doug Brocail (46), Dan Warthan (39), 1B—Steve Buechele (24), 3B—Tony Beasley (27), Bench—Don Wakamatsu (23), Bullpen—Hector Ortiz (4)

NO.	PITCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
43	Tony Barnette	R/R	6'1"	190	11/9/83
47	Clayton Blackburn	L/R	6'3"	230	1/6/93
51	Matt Bush	R/R	5'9"	180	2/8/86
58	Alex Claudio	L/L	6'3"	180	1/31/92
41	Jake Diekman	L/L	6'4"	200	1/21/87
38	Doug Fister	L/R	6'8"	210	2/4/84
45	Nick Gardewine	R/R	6'1"	179	8/15/93
35	Cole Hamels	L/L	6'4"	205	12/27/83
72	Jonathan Hernandez	R/R	6'2"	175	7/6/96
63	Ronald Herrera	R/R	5'11"	185	5/3/95
70	Ariel Jurado	R/R	6'1"	180	1/30/96
50	Keone Kela	R/R	6'1"	215	4/16/93
62	Jose Leclerc	R/R	6'0"	190	12/19/93
74	Brett Martin	L/L	6'4"	190	4/28/95
31	Chris Martin	R/R	6'8"	215	6/2/86
65	Yohander Mendez	L/L	6'5"	200	1/17/95
36	Mike Minor	R/L	6'4"	210	12/26/87
55	Matt Moore	L/L	6'3"	210	6/18/89
75	Joe Palumbo	L/L	6'1"	168	10/26/94
33	Martin Perez	L/L	6'0"	200	4/4/91
68	Ricardo Rodriguez	R/R	6'2"	220	8/31/92
59	Connor Sadzeck	R/R	6'7"	240	10/1/91

NO.	CATCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
8	Juan Centeno	L/R	5'9"	195	11/16/89
61	Robinson Chirinos	R/R	6'1"	210	6/5/84
6	Brett Nicholas	L/R	6'2"	220	7/18/88
71	Jose Trevino	R/R	5'11"	211	11/28/92

NO.	INFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
1	Elvis Andrus	R/R	6'0"	200	8/26/88
29	Adrian Beltre	R/R	5'11"	220	4/7/79
13	Joey Gallo	L/R	6'5"	235	11/19/93
67	Ronald Guzman	L/L	6'5"	205	10/20/94
73	Isiah Kiner-Falefa	R/R	5'10"	176	3/23/95
12	Rougned Odor	L/R	5'11"	195	2/3/94
19	Jurickson Profar	S/R	6'0"	190	2/20/93

NO.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
5	Willie Calhoun	L/R	5'8"	187	11/4/94
17	Shin-Soo Choo	L/L	5'11"	210	7/13/82
3	Delino DeShields	R/R	5'9"	200	8/16/92
30	Nomar Mazara	L/L	6'4"	215	4/26/95
18	Drew Robinson	L/R	6'1"	200	4/20/92
16	Ryan Rua	R/R	6'2"	205	3/11/90
76	Carlos Tocci	R/R	6'2"	160	8/23/95

(AP Photo/Tony Gutierrez)

spectacular debut, but he has a lot of fans within the sport. Second baseman Rougned Odor was awful a year ago, but his power is legitimate, and he has a track record of success. A 2018 rebound would make sense. Speaking of legitimate power, Joey Gallo definitely has that, wherever he is positioned on the diamond.

This will be general manager Jon Daniels' 13th season in Texas, no small tenure to spend in charge of any club. The Rangers' outlook does not look wonderful in the long term, with a weak farm system and an aging core. Winning now would be ideal, but it doesn't look particularly possible.

Still, Daniels is keeping his job, so perhaps he need not be as much of a risk-taker right now as Jerry Dipoto and Billy Eppler. You always manage to your circumstances. **BD**

2018 SCHEDULE

MARCH	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER						
29, 30, 31 APRIL 1 2, 3, 4, 5 6, 7, 8 9, 10, 11 13, 14, 15 16, 17, 18 20, 21, 22 23, 24, 25 27, 28, 29 30	Hou. @ Oak. Tor. L.A. @ Hou. @ T.B. Sea. Oak. @ Tor. @ Cle.	1, 2 3, 4, 5, 6 7, 8, 9 11, 12, 13 15, 16 17, 18, 19, 20 21, 22, 23 24, 25, 26, 27 28, 29, 30, 31	@ Cle. Bos. Det. @ Hou. @ Sea. @ Chi. N.Y. K.C. @ Sea.	1, 2, 3 5, 6 7, 8, 9, 10 12, 13 15, 16, 17 18, 19, 20 22, 23, 24 25, 26, 27 29, 30	@ L.A. Oak. Hou. @ L.A. Col. @ K.C. @ Min. S.D. Chi.	1 3, 4 5, 6, 7, 8 9, 10, 11 13, 14, 15 20, 21, 22 23, 24, 25, 26 27, 28, 29 30, 31	Chi. Hou. @ Det. @ Bos. @ Bal. Cle. Oak. @ Hou.s @ Ari.	2, 3, 4, 5 6, 7, 8 9, 10, 11, 12 13, 14 16, 17, 18, 19 20, 21, 22 24, 25, 26 28, 29 31	Bal. Sea. @ N.Y. Ari. L.A. @ Oak. @ S.F. L.A. @ Min.	1, 2 3, 4, 5 7, 8, 9 10, 11, 12 14, 15, 16 17, 18, 19 21, 22, 23 24, 25, 26 27, 28, 29, 30	Min. L.A. @ Oak. @ L.A. @ S.D. T.B. Sea. @ L.A. @ Sea.

Boldface indicates interleague games. All-Star Game is on July 17 in Washington, D.C.

**MATT
CHAPMAN**

40-MAN ROSTER

Major-league roster on Feb. 4 • Uniform numbers subject to change

Manager: Bob Melvin (6)

Coaches: Hitting—Darren Bush (51), Mike Aldrete (14), Pitching—Scott Emerson (65), 1B—Al Pedrique (41), 3B—Matt Williams (4), Bench—Ryan Christenson (29), Bullpen—Marcus Jensen (59), Mark Kotsay (7)

NO.	PITCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
50	Raul Alcantara	R/R	6'4"	220	12/4/92
40	Chris Bassitt	R/R	6'5"	220	2/22/89
58	Paul Blackburn	R/R	6'1"	195	12/4/93
52	Ryan Buchter	L/L	6'4"	258	2/13/87
46	Santiago Casilla	R/R	6'0"	210	7/25/80
45	Jharel Cotton	R/R	5'11"	195	1/19/92
35	Daniel Coulombe	L/L	5'10"	190	10/26/89
66	Ryan Dull	R/R	5'9"	175	10/2/89
48	Daniel Gossett	R/R	6'2"	185	11/13/92
49	Kendall Graveman	R/R	6'2"	200	12/21/90
44	Chris Hatcher	R/R	6'1"	200	1/12/85
31	Liam Hendriks	R/R	6'0"	200	2/10/89
55	Sean Manaea	R/L	6'5"	245	2/1/92
33	Daniel Mengden	R/R	6'2"	190	2/19/93
47	Frankie Montas	R/R	6'2"	255	3/21/93
15	Emilio Pagan	L/R	6'3"	210	5/7/91
36	Yusmeiro Petit	R/R	6'1"	255	11/22/84
39	Blake Treinen	R/R	6'5"	225	6/30/88
60	Andrew Triggs	R/R	6'4"	220	3/16/89
62	Lou Trivino	R/R	6'5"	225	10/1/91

NO.	CATCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	DOB
12	Dustin Garneau	R/R	6'0"	200	8/13/87
13	Bruce Maxwell	L/R	6'1"	250	12/20/90
19	Josh Phegley	R/R	5'10"	230	2/12/88

NO.	INFELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	DOB
1	Franklin Barreto	R/R	5'10"	190	2/27/96
26	Matt Chapman	R/R	6'0"	210	4/28/93
8	Jed Lowrie	S/R	6'0"	180	4/17/84
57	Jorge Mateo	R/R	6'0"	190	6/23/95
37	Brandon Moss	L/R	6'1"	210	9/16/83
28	Matt Olson	L/R	6'5"	230	3/29/94
18	Chad Pinder	R/R	6'2"	195	3/29/92
10	Marcus Semien	R/R	6'0"	195	9/17/90

NO.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	DOB
20	Mark Canha	R/R	6'2"	210	2/15/89
2	Khris Davis	R/R	5'10"	195	12/21/87
11	Dustin Fowler	L/L	6'0"	195	12/29/94
23	Matt Joyce	L/R	6'2"	205	8/3/84
56	Ramon Laureano	R/R	5'11"	185	7/15/94
22	Renato Nunez	R/R	6'1"	220	4/4/94
25	Stephen Piscotty	R/R	6'3"	210	1/14/91
3	Boog Powell	L/L	5'10"	185	1/14/93
5	Jake Smolinski	R/R	5'11"	205	2/9/89

(AP Photo/Matt York)

5. OAKLAND ATHLETICS

The Athletics debuted some impressive talent in 2017 and added some more over the offseason, but there does not appear to be enough to mount any sort of legitimate run at the playoffs. Corner infielders Matt Olson and Matt Chapman should provide pop for years to come at the Coliseum, or wherever Oakland will get a new stadium built during the next decade.

Yusmeiro Petit, the ex-Angel, got a two-year deal and lefty Ryan Buchter, acquired from the Royals, will help provide lots of multi-inning relief to what was a bad bullpen a year ago. Plenty of people around baseball believe in Stephen Piscotty's potential, and his acquisition adds intrigue.

Chapman demonstrated in 2017 that he wants to be a leader, and the A's appear in need of one. Matt Joyce is not that guy, but the return of veteran slugger Brandon Moss will help. Khris Davis, it's clear, prefers to hit a lot of home runs and not talk a lot. So, it's worth watching to see if Chapman continues to grow into that role in 2018, and it's also worth watching to see if Franklin Barreto can demonstrate that his skills will play at baseball's highest level.

Oakland will give Barreto another chance at some point, and Jorge Mateo, James Kaprielian and Dustin Fowler should soon get chances, too. The New York Yankees sent those three prospects over in the Sonny Gray trade, which left the A's rotation weakened but their farm system strengthened. If Fowler and Kaprielian can get healthy,

the A's could have obtained an outsized return for their former ace.

Kendall Graveman has taken over for Gray, at least in name. He should be the Athletics' Opening Day starter. Clearly, the A's lack top-end talent in their rotation, and their pitchers who did succeed last season later succumbed to injuries.

There's sufficient talent to produce some interesting stretches, but no more than that. **BD**

2018 SCHEDULE

MARCH

29, 30, 31 L.A.

APRIL

1 L.A.
2, 3, 4, 5 Tex.
6, 7, 8 @ L.A.
10, 11 @ L.A.
13, 14, 15 @ Sea.
16, 17, 18 Chi.
20, 21, 22 Bos.
23, 24, 25 @ Tex.
27, 28, 29 @ Hou.

MAY

1, 2, 3 @ Sea.
4, 5, 6 Bal.
7, 8, 9 Hou.
11, 12, 13 @ N.Y.
14, 15, 16 @ Bos.
17, 18, 19, 20 @ Tor.
22, 23, 24 Sea.
25, 26, 27 Ari.
28, 29, 30, 31 T.B.

JUNE

1, 2, 3 @ K.C.
5, 6 @ Tex.
7, 8, 9, 10 @ K.C.
12, 13, 14 Hou.
15, 16, 17 L.A.
19, 20 @ S.D.
21, 22, 23, 24 @ Chi.
25, 26, 27, 28 @ Det.
29, 30 Cle.

JULY

1 Cle.
3, 4 S.D.
6, 7, 8 @ Cle.
9, 10, 11, 12 @ Hou.
13, 14, 15 @ S.F.
20, 21, 22 S.F.
23, 24, 25, 26 @ Tex.
27, 28, 29 @ Col.
30, 31 Tor.

AUGUST

1 Tor.
3, 4, 5 Det.
7, 8 L.A.
10, 11, 12 @ L.A.
13, 14, 15 Sea.
17, 18, 19 Hou.
20, 21, 22 Tex.
23, 24, 25, 26 @ Min.
27, 28, 29 @ Hou.
30, 31 Sea.

SEPTEMBER

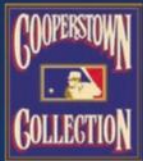
1, 2 Sea.
3, 4, 5 @ N.Y.
7, 8, 9 Tex.
11, 12, 13 @ Bal.
14, 15, 16 @ T.B.
18, 19, 20 L.A.
21, 22, 23 Min.
24, 25, 26 @ Sea.
28, 29, 30 @ L.A.

Boldface indicates interleague games. All-Star Game is on July 17 in Washington, D.C.

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AMERICAN LEAGUE CENTRAL

ROOKIES TO WATCH



AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin

MICHAEL KOPECH

Michael Kopech, White Sox, RHP

The rebuilding White Sox now look to cash in on young talent acquired in several high-profile trades. The 21-year-old Kopech, who arrived from Boston in the Chris Sale deal a year ago, should get a first look after posting a 2.88 ERA and 172 strikeouts in 134.1 innings between Double-A Birmingham and Triple-A Charlotte in 2017. Kopech throws in the high-90s, often tops 100, and complements the heat with a nasty slider. He did issue 65 walks, but the hard-throwing right-hander could become a staff ace with better command.

Francisco Mejia, Indians, C

After playing just 42 games at high Class-A Lynchburg in 2016, the switch-hitting Mejia successfully jumped to Double-A Akron last season, batting .297/.346/.490 with 21 doubles and 14 homers in 92 games. One of the game's best-hitting catching prospects, he drives the ball to all fields from both sides of the plate and should make the jump to Cleveland in 2018. With Yan Gomes' struggles against right-handed pitching, Mejia could soon make a dent in his playing time. Mejia went 2-for-13 for Cleveland in September.

Franklin Perez, Tigers, RHP

The rebuilding Tigers, light on talent in the high minors, may soon get a payoff on Perez, one of three prospects acquired for Justin Verlander in August. Although the 6-foot-3 Perez just turned 20, he has an advanced arsenal that includes a moving low-90s fastball and three offspeed pitches. In 19 games at high Class-A Buies Creek and Double-A Corpus Christi last season, he posted a 3.02 ERA in 16 starts and three relief outings that generated three saves. He throws strikes, works low in the zone, and has the stuff to join the Tigers soon.

Stephen Gonsalves, Twins, LHP

The Twins have acquired a few rotation options over the winter, but should still give a look to Gonsalves, who lacks elite stuff but has retired hitters consistently and posted a 2.39 ERA in five minor-league seasons. In 2017, he excelled in his first exposure to Double-A hitters, going 8-3 (2.68) and walking only seven in 15 starts for Chattanooga. A late-season stint with Triple-A Rochester didn't go as well, but the 23-year-old Gonsalves has successfully made adjustments every step of the way.

Trevor Oaks, Royals, RHP

Oaks also lacks dominant stuff, but the 24-year-old features a sinker that induces a steady stream of groundballs. You won't find him on top prospects lists, but the retooling Royals liked him enough to acquire him from the Dodgers in a three-team trade in January. The Dodgers had protected him from the Rule 5 draft in December—after he posted a 3.75 ERA in 16 Triple-A outings—and the durable Oaks will get an opportunity to pitch in the majors in 2018 with the Royals.



MIGUEL CABRERA

AP Photo/Nick Wass

• Twins second baseman **Brian Dozier** is the only major leaguer to score 100 or more runs in each of the last four seasons. From 2014 through 2017, respectively, his run totals have been 112, 101, 104 and 106.

• Detroit's **Miguel Cabrera** enters the 2018 season 38 home runs shy of 500 for his career. If he reaches that historic plateau, he will become the fifth slugger in MLB history to win the Triple Crown (2012) and hit 500 home runs. The others to accomplish this feat are Frank Robinson, Mickey Mantle, Jimmie Foxx and Ted Williams.



BRIAN DOZIER

AP Photo/John Auley



BRET SABERHAGEN

AP Photo/Pete Southwick

DID YOU KNOW . . . the last pitcher to win 20 or more games in a season for the Kansas City Royals was Bret Saberhagen? He topped the A.L. with 23 wins in 1989. The last 20-game winners for the other A.L. Central clubs are Max Scherzer, Tigers (21 in 2013), Cliff Lee for the Indians (22 in 2008), Johan Santana for the Twins (20 in 2004), and Esteban Loaiza for the White Sox (21 in 2003).

DID YOU KNOW . . . that since 1994, when the American League adopted a three-division format (East, West, Central), the Minnesota Twins are the only Central Division team not to capture an A.L. pennant? The Indians won league titles in 1995, 1997 and 2016; the White Sox claimed the 2005 flag; the Tigers won in 2006 and 2012; the Royals secured consecutive pennants in 2014 and 2015.

CHICAGO WHITE SOX

World Series Titles: 3
Pennants: 5
Division Titles: 6
Wins: 9,149
Losses: 9,026
100-W Seasons: 1
100-L Seasons: 3

FRANCHISE LEADERS

HR: Frank Thomas (448)
H: Luke Appling (2,749)
RBI: Frank Thomas (1,465)
W: Ted Lyons (260)
SO: Billy Pierce (1,796)
Svs: Bobby Thigpen (201)



AP Photo/Mark Duncan **FRANK THOMAS**

CLEVELAND INDIANS

World Series Titles: 2
Pennants: 6
Division Titles: 9
Wins: 9,293
Losses: 8,897
100-W Seasons: 3
100-L Seasons: 5

FRANCHISE LEADERS

HR: Jim Thome (337)
H: Nap Lajoie (2,047)
RBI: Earl Averill (1,084)
W: Bob Feller (266)
SO: Bob Feller (2,581)
Svs: Bob Wickman (139)



AP Photo/Mark Duncan **JIM THOME**

DETROIT TIGERS

World Series Titles: 4
Pennants: 11
Division Titles: 7
Wins: 9,235
Losses: 8,979
100-W Seasons: 5
100-L Seasons: 6

FRANCHISE LEADERS

HR: Al Kaline (399)
H: Ty Cobb (3,900)
RBI: Ty Cobb (1,811)
W: Hooks Dauss (223)
SO: Mickey Lolich (2,679)
Svs: Todd Jones (235)



MICKEY LOLICH

KANSAS CITY ROYALS

World Series Titles: 2
Pennants: 4
Division Titles: 7
Wins: 3,784
Losses: 4,015
100-W Seasons: 1
100-L Seasons: 4

FRANCHISE LEADERS

HR: George Brett (317)
H: George Brett (3,154)
RBI: George Brett (1,596)
W: Paul Splittorff (166)
SO: Kevin Appier (1,458)
Svs: Jeff Montgomery (304)



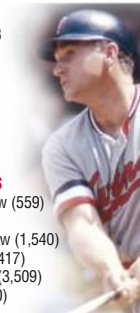
David Durochik/SportPics **GEORGE BRETT**

MINNESOTA TWINS

World Series Titles: 3
Pennants: 6
Division Titles: 10
Wins: 8,724
Losses: 9,458
100-W Seasons: 1
100-L Seasons: 7

FRANCHISE LEADERS

HR: Harmon Killebrew (559)
H: Sam Rice (2,889)
RBI: Harmon Killebrew (1,540)
W: Walter Johnson (417)
SO: Walter Johnson (3,509)
Svs: Joe Nathan (260)



David Durochik/SportPics **HARMON KILLEBREW**

AMERICAN LEAGUE

CENTRAL DIVISION PREVIEW

By Mike Berardino *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

In the beginning, there were the Cleveland Indians. OK, not that beginning. Talking here about the mid-1990s and the start of baseball's wild-card era and the expanded postseason gauntlet that went along with it.

Starting with 1995, the Indians would claim the first five American League Central titles and six of the first seven. With general manager John Hart and manager Mike Hargrove at the controls, those insanely talented

only to fall to the New York Yankees in five stirring games in the division round.

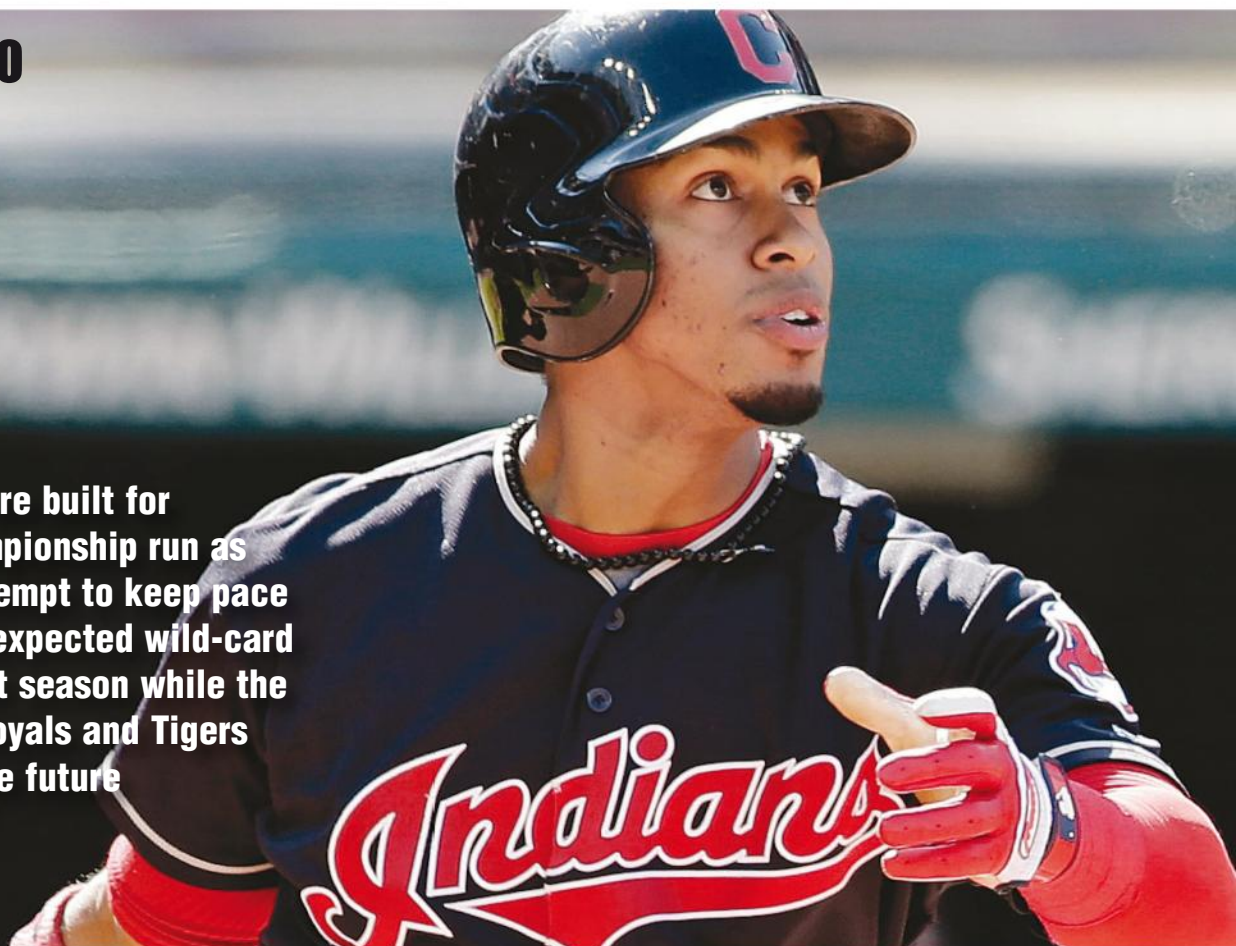
Now Francona's well-balanced club is back for more. Barring an incredible run of injuries, locusts and other misfortunes, the Indians should roll to their third straight division title in 2018.

Their primary competition, such as it is, should come from the ascendant Minnesota Twins, winners of 85 games

FRANCISCO LINDOR

The Indians are built for another championship run as the Twins attempt to keep pace with their unexpected wild-card invitation last season while the White Sox, Royals and Tigers rebuild for the future

(AP Photo/Tony Dejak)



Cleveland teams weren't quite able to end a World Series championship drought that stretches all the way back to 1948, but they did win pennants in '95 and '97, reclaiming franchise pride in the process.

Fast forward two decades, and the Indians of Chris Antonetti and Terry Francona are seemingly entering a similar run of dominance. They've already got the Game 7 loss in extra innings out of the way; that came in 2016 at the hands of the Chicago Cubs, who had been suffering through a title drought four decades longer.

Last season, Cleveland rolled to 102 wins, including an American League-record 22 straight down the stretch,

and the second A.L. wild-card spot a year ago. No one must remind reigning A.L. Manager of the Year Paul Molitor what happened the last time his club forged a winning season; the 2016 Twins immediately plummeted to 103 losses and got beloved general manager Terry Ryan fired.

With the Chicago White Sox already in long-term rebuilding mode, the Detroit Tigers and Kansas City Royals have decided to join them, leaving 60 percent of the division eyeing the future while essentially leaving 2018 for the Indians and, to a lesser extent, the Twins.

It's hard to imagine a better recipe for another string of division titles in Cleveland. **BD**



COREY KLUBER



40-MAN ROSTER

Major-league roster on Feb. 4 • Uniform numbers subject to change

Manager: Terry Francona (77)
Coaches: Hitting—Ty Van Burkleo (29), Victor Rodriguez (60), Pitching—Carl Willis (51), 1B—Sandy Alomar Jr. (15), 3B—Mike Sarbaugh (16), Bench—Brad Mills (2), Bullpen—Scott Atchison (48), Coach—Mark Budzinski (88), Brian Sweeney (85)

NO.	PITCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
37	Cody Allen	R/R	6'1"	210	11/20/88
56	Cody Anderson	R/R	6'4"	240	9/14/90
47	Trevor Bauer	R/R	6'1"	190	1/17/91
59	Carlos Carrasco	R/R	6'3"	212	3/21/87
52	Mike Clevinger	R/R	6'4"	210	12/21/90
44	Nick Goody	R/R	5'11"	195	7/6/91
28	Corey Kluber	R/R	6'4"	215	4/10/86
34	Zach McAllister	R/R	6'6"	240	12/8/87
54	Ryan Merritt	L/L	6'0"	180	2/21/92
72	Julian Merryweather	R/R	6'4"	200	10/14/91
24	Andrew Miller	L/L	6'7"	205	5/21/85
62	Shawn Morimando	L/L	6'0"	200	11/20/92
49	Tyler Olson	R/L	6'3"	195	10/2/89
61	Dan Otero	R/R	6'3"	205	2/19/85
50	Adam Plutko	R/R	6'3"	200	10/3/91
31	Danny Salazar	R/R	6'0"	195	1/11/90
43	Josh Tomlin	R/R	6'1"	190	10/19/84

NO.	CATCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
7	Yan Gomes	R/R	6'2"	215	7/19/87
71	Eric Haase	R/R	5'10"	180	12/18/92
27	Francisco Mejia	S/R	5'10"	180	10/27/95
55	Roberto Perez	R/R	5'11"	220	12/23/88

NO.	INFELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
17	Yonder Alonso	L/R	6'1"	230	4/8/87
73	Willi Castro	S/R	6'1"	165	4/24/97
75	Yu-Cheng Chang	R/R	6'1"	175	8/18/95
36	Yandy Diaz	R/R	6'2"	185	8/8/91
10	Edwin Encarnacion	R/R	6'1"	230	1/7/83
9	Erik Gonzalez	R/R	6'3"	195	8/31/91
22	Jason Kipnis	L/R	5'11"	195	4/3/87
12	Francisco Lindor	S/R	5'11"	190	11/14/93
11	Jose Ramirez	S/R	5'9"	165	9/17/92
33	Rob Refsnyder	R/R	6'0"	200	3/26/91
66	Eric Stamets	R/R	6'0"	190	9/25/91
39	Giovanny Urshela	R/R	6'0"	215	10/11/91

NO.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
53	Greg Allen	S/R	6'0"	175	3/15/93
35	Abraham Almonte	S/R	5'9"	210	6/27/89
23	Michael Brantley	L/L	6'2"	200	5/15/87
8	Lonnie Chisenhall	L/R	6'2"	190	10/4/88
6	Brandon Guyer	R/R	6'2"	200	1/28/86
30	Tyler Naquin	L/R	6'2"	195	4/24/91
4	Bradley Zimmer	L/R	6'5"	220	11/27/92

(AP Photo/Phil Long)

1. CLEVELAND INDIANS

In his seven seasons as a Cleveland Indians stalwart, first behind the plate and more recently at first base, Carlos Santana out-produced the league average by a park-adjusted 20 percent.

Averaging 24 homers and reaching base at a .363 clip since the start of 2011, Santana will be missed at Progressive Field after jumping to the rebuilding Philadelphia Phillies for \$60 million over three years.

In his place the Indians will plug well-traveled Yonder Alonso's late-blooming power bat, hoping the 28 homers he hit from the left side last season between Oakland and Seattle will carry forward. Alonso cost them a comparatively modest guarantee of \$16 million over two years with a club option for 2020, but it's fair to wonder if 2017 will turn out to be an aberration.

In his prior five seasons, admittedly spent in the cavernous home parks of San Diego and Oakland, Alonso averaged just seven homers with a .333 OBP and a park-adjusted OPS that was just two percent above league average.

The good news for the Indians is there are plenty of other ways to pick up the slack from Santana's departure.

Jose Ramirez finished third in the American League MVP voting last year after leading a 102-win Indians club with nearly seven full wins above replacement. Ramirez, who could handle second or third base, figures to settle back into the hot corner now that second baseman Jason Kipnis has stayed put after a spate of winter trade rumors.

Francisco Lindor is a budding superstar at shortstop and

Michael Brantley's horrible injury luck can't possibly continue, can it?

Productive rental Jay Bruce returned to the New York Mets on a three-year, \$39-million deal, but the Indians have the likes of Bradley Zimmer, Lonnie Chisenhall and Tyler Naquin to take up the slack in the outfield.

Corey Kluber, coming off his second Cy Young in four years, will again front a deep rotation that features Trevor Bauer, Carlos Carrasco and Danny Salazar. The bullpen must work around the free-agent losses of setup men Bryan Shaw and Joe Smith, but Cody Allen and Andrew Miller return for their final season of club control. **BD**

2018 SCHEDULE

MARCH

29, 31 @ Sea.
APRIL
 1 @ Sea.
 2, 3, 4 @ L.A.
 6, 7, 8 K.C.
 9, 10, 11, 12 Det.
 13, 14, 15 Tor.
 17, 18 @ Min.
 20, 21, 22, 23 @ Bal.
24, 25 Chi.
 26, 27, 28, 29 Sea.
 30 Tex.

MAY

1, 2 Tex.
 4, 5, 6 @ N.Y.
8, 9 @ Mil.
 11, 12, 13 K.C.
 14, 15, 16 @ Det.
 18, 19, 20 @ Hou.
22, 23 @ Chi.
 24, 25, 26, 27 Hou.
 28, 29, 30 Chi.
 31 @ Min.

JUNE

1, 2, 3 @ Min.
5, 6 Mil.
 8, 9, 10 @ Det.
 11, 12, 13, 14 @ Chi.
 15, 16, 17 Min.
 18, 19, 20 Chi.
 22, 23, 24 Det.
25, 26, 27 @ St.L.
 29, 30 @ Oak.

JULY

1 @ Oak.
 2, 3, 4 @ K.C.
 6, 7, 8 Oak.
9, 10, 11 Cin.
 12, 13, 14, 15 N.Y.
 20, 21, 22 @ Tex.
23, 24, 25 Pit.
 27, 28, 29 @ Det.
 30, 31 @ Min.

AUGUST

1 @ Min.
 3, 4, 5 L.A.
 6, 7, 8, 9 Min.
 10, 11, 12 @ Chi.
13, 14, 15 @ Cin.
 17, 18, 19 Bal.
 20, 21, 22, 23 @ Bos.
 24, 25, 26 @ K.C.
 28, 29, 30 Min.
 31 T.B.

SEPTEMBER

1, 2 T.B.
 3, 4, 5 K.C.
 6, 7, 8, 9 @ Tor.
 10, 11, 12 @ T.B.
 14, 15, 16 Det.
 18, 19, 20 Chi.
 21, 22, 23 Bos.
 24, 25, 26 @ Chi.
 27, 28, 29, 30 @ K.C.

Boldface indicates interleague games. All-Star Game is on July 17 in Washington, D.C.

40-MAN ROSTER

Major-league roster on Feb. 4 • Uniform numbers subject to change

Manager: Paul Molitor (4)

Coaches: Hitting—James Rowson (33), Rudy Hernandez (63), Pitching—Garvin Alston (41), 1B—Jeff Smith (40), 3B—Gene Glynn (13), Bench—Derek Shelton (9), Bullpen—Eddie Guardado (18), Coach—Jeff Pickler (31)

NO.	PITCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
17	Jose Berrios	R/R	6'0"	185	5/27/94
67	Alan Busenitz	R/R	6'1"	180	8/22/90
60	J.T. Chargois	S/R	6'3"	200	12/3/90
27	John Curtiss	R/R	6'4"	200	4/5/93
56	Tyler Duffey	R/R	6'3"	220	12/27/90
32	Zach Duke	L/L	6'2"	210	4/19/83
47	Dietrich Enns	L/L	6'1"	210	5/16/91
44	Kyle Gibson	R/R	6'6"	215	10/23/87
59	Stephen Gonsalves	L/L	6'5"	213	7/8/94
39	Trevor Hildenberger	R/R	6'2"	211	12/15/90
45	Phil Hughes	R/R	6'5"	240	6/24/86
76	Felix Jorge	R/R	6'2"	170	1/2/94
61-	Tyler Kinley	R/R	6'4"	205	1/31/91
52	Zack Littell	R/R	6'4"	220	10/5/95
65	Trevor May	R/R	6'5"	240	9/23/89
49	Adalberto Mejia	R/L	6'3"	195	6/20/93
58	Gabriel Moya	L/L	6'0"	175	1/9/95
35	Michael Pineda	R/R	6'7"	260	1/18/89
57	Ryan Pressly	R/R	6'3"	210	12/15/88
43	Addison Reed	L/R	6'4"	230	12/27/88
56	Fernando Rodney	R/R	5'11"	230	3/18/77
55	Taylor Rogers	L/L	6'3"	170	12/17/90
77	Fernando Romero	R/R	6'0"	215	12/24/94
54	Ervin Santana	R/R	6'2"	175	12/12/82
50	Aaron Slegers	R/R	6'10"	245	9/4/92
71	Lewis Thorpe	R/L	6'1"	160	11/23/95

NO.	CATCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
21	Jason Castro	L/R	6'3"	215	6/18/87
43	Mitch Garver	R/R	6'1"	220	1/15/91

NO.	INFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
16	Ehire Adrianza	S/R	6'1"	170	8/21/89
2	Brian Dozier	R/R	5'11"	200	5/15/87
5	Eduardo Escobar	S/R	5'10"	185	1/5/89
7	Joe Mauer	L/R	6'5"	225	4/19/83
11	Jorge Polanco	S/R	5'11"	200	7/5/93
22	Miguel Sano	R/R	6'4"	260	5/11/93
19	Kennys Vargas	S/R	6'5"	290	8/1/90

NO.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
25	Byron Buxton	R/R	6'2"	190	12/18/93
8	Zack Granite	L/L	6'1"	175	9/17/92
36	Robbie Grossman	S/L	6'0"	215	9/16/89
26	Max Kepler	L/L	6'4"	205	2/10/93
20	Eddie Rosario	L/R	6'1"	180	9/28/91

(AP Photo/John Autrey)



BRIAN DOZIER

2. MINNESOTA TWINS

Between them, Fernando Rodney and Addison Reed have pitched for 11 different big-league teams—with the Arizona Diamondbacks their only shared stop—while piling up 425 combined saves.

The Minnesota Twins hope they prove to be a lethal combination at the back of a revamped bullpen.

After signing Rodney to close in his age-41 season, guaranteeing him \$4.5 million with another \$1.5 million in reachable incentives, the Twins waded back into the free-agent pool in mid-January for the 29-year-old Reed. The move took many by surprise, especially at a guaranteed \$16.75 million over two years, but the Twins saw an opportunity to improve and they took it.

The plan is still for Rodney, coming off a 39-save season for the wild-card Diamondbacks, to serve as their closer, at least at the start. He needs 30 saves to pass Francisco Cordero as the all-time saves leader among relievers born in the Dominican Republic.

Any lead protection they do will likely come courtesy of a Brian Dozier-led lineup that finished fourth in the league in runs last season. Dozier (32-homer average the past four seasons) and young center fielder Byron Buxton won their first Rawlings Gold Glove awards, pacing a defensive turn-

around that made life easier for a pitching staff that doesn't miss nearly enough bats.

All-Star right-hander Ervin Santana enters his age-35 season and could use a hand at the top of the rotation. Young Jose Berrios should be able to provide that after a 14-win breakout, but there are questions beyond those two with Kyle Gibson, Adalberto Mejia, Phil Hughes and Trevor May among those bidding for regular turns.

Slugging third baseman Miguel Sano is coming off surgery on his left shin and might require more DH time than the Twins would prefer for a 24-year-old with weight issues. **BD**

2018 SCHEDULE

MARCH	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
29, 31	1, 2	1, 2, 3	1	1	1, 2
@ Bal.	3, 4, 5, 6	Cle.	1	Cle.	@ Tex.
APRIL	7, 8	@ Chi.	2, 3, 4	3, 4, 5	3, 4, 5
1	@ Pit.	@ St.L.	@ Chi.	Bal.	@ Hou.
2, 4	10, 11, 12, 13	@ L.A.	L.A.	6, 7, 8, 9	K.C.
5, 7, 8	15, 16	12, 13, 14	@ Det.	10, 11, 12	N.Y.
9, 10, 11	18, 19, 20	15, 16, 17	@ Cle.	14, 15	@ K.C.
12, 13, 14, 15	21, 22, 23	19, 20, 21	Bos.	@ K.C.	@ Det.
17, 18	25, 26, 27	22, 23, 24	Tex.	@ Tor.	@ Oak.
20, 21, 22	28, 29, 30	26, 27, 28	@ Chi.	23, 24, 25, 26	25, 26, 27
23, 24, 25, 26	31	29, 30	@ Chi.	@ Bos.	Det.
27, 28, 29				Cle.	Chi.
30				28, 29, 30	
				31	
				@ Tex.	

Boldface indicates interleague games. All-Star Game is on July 17 in Washington, D.C.

JOSE ABREU



3. CHICAGO WHITE SOX

It's fair to wonder, perhaps, what use the rebuilding Chicago White Sox would have for Joakim Soria.

After all, the veteran reliever, entering his age-34 season, blew seven saves in each of the past two seasons while greatly disappointing the Kansas City Royals. So eager were the Royals to get rid of Soria, they attached promising young lefty Scott Alexander and an additional \$1 million in a three-way deal with the Los Angeles Dodgers in order to save the final \$9 million on Soria's ill-fated, three-year deal.

So, what is Soria doing on the South Side? Perhaps that will become more apparent as manager Rick Renteria navigates another year of expected hard lessons and painful losses. If Soria can expedite the process on the first count and lower the incidence of the second, perhaps his presence will be worthwhile.

Other veterans brought in this winter included right-hander Miguel Gonzalez (one year, \$4.75 million) and catcher Wellington Castillo (two years, \$15 million), in hopes of solidifying a youthful rotation and pitching staff in general. Castillo, the only catcher to throw out Twins blazer Byron Buxton on a stolen-base attempt last season, played for Renteria with the Cubs earlier in the decade.

(AP Photo/Charles Rex Arbogast)

40-MAN ROSTER

Major-league roster on Feb. 4 • Uniform numbers subject to change

Manager: Rick Renteria (17)

Coaches: Hitting—Todd Steverson (31), Greg Sparks (46),

Pitching—Don Cooper (99), 1B—Darl Boston (8), 3B—Nick Capra (12),

Bench—Joe McEwing (47), Bullpen—Curt Hasler (60)

NO.	PITCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
70	Luis Avilan	L/L	6'2"	225	7/19/89
39	Aaron Bummer	L/L	6'3"	200	9/21/93
64	Ian Clarkin	L/L	6'2"	215	2/14/95
68	Dylan Covey	R/R	6'2"	195	8/14/91
43	Danny Farquhar	R/R	5'9"	185	2/17/87
57	Jace Fry	L/L	6'1"	190	7/9/93
51	Carson Fulmer	R/R	6'0"	195	12/13/93
27	Lucas Giolito	R/R	6'6"	255	7/14/94
58	Miguel Gonzalez	R/R	6'1"	170	5/27/84
45	Gregory Infante	R/R	6'2"	215	7/10/87
65	Nate Jones	R/R	6'5"	220	1/28/86
40	Reynaldo Lopez	R/R	6'0"	185	1/4/94
37	Juan Minaya	R/R	6'4"	210	9/18/90
55	Carlos Rodon	L/L	6'3"	235	12/10/92
67	Jose Ruiz	R/R	6'1"	190	10/21/94
33	James Shields	R/R	6'3"	215	12/20/81
48	Joakim Soria	R/R	6'3"	200	5/18/84
50	Thyago Vieira	R/R	6'2"	210	7/1/93

NO.	CATCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
53	Wellington Castillo	R/R	5'10"	220	4/24/87
38	Omar Narvaez	L/R	5'11"	215	2/10/92
36	Kevan Smith	R/R	6'4"	230	6/28/88

NO.	INFELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
79	Jose Abreu	R/R	6'3"	255	1/29/87
7	Tim Anderson	R/R	6'1"	185	6/23/93
24	Matt Davidson	R/R	6'3"	230	3/26/91
62	Casey Gillaspie	S/L	6'4"	240	1/25/93
10	Yoan Moncada	R/R	6'2"	205	5/27/95
71	Jose Rondon	R/R	6'1"	195	3/3/94
20	Tyler Saladino	R/R	6'0"	200	7/20/89
5	Yolmer Sanchez	S/R	5'11"	185	6/29/92

NO.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
77	Micker Adolfo	R/R	6'3"	200	9/11/96
73	Luis Alexander Basabe	S/R	6'0"	160	8/26/96
49	Ryan Cordell	R/R	6'4"	195	3/31/92
30	Nicky Delmonico	L/R	6'2"	230	7/12/92
41	Adam Engel	R/R	6'2"	210	12/9/91
26	Avisail Garcia	R/R	6'4"	240	6/12/91
28	Leury Garcia	S/R	5'8"	170	3/18/91
44	Willy Garcia	R/R	6'2"	215	9/4/92
74	Eloy Jimenez	R/R	6'4"	205	11/27/96
63	Daniel Palka	L/L	6'2"	220	10/28/91
22	Charlie Tilson	L/L	5'11"	195	12/2/92

With Jose Abreu and Yoan Moncada anchoring the right side of the infield, perhaps the White Sox will be able to return to respectability sooner than expected. Talented young arms such as Lucas Giolito, Reynaldo Lopez, Carson Fulmer and Michael Kopech will go a long way toward determining that timeline.

On an encouraging note, a 95-loss White Sox team did manage to post a winning record after Sept. 1 last season. As they await future waves of talent acquired in a targeted sell-off by general manager Rick Hahn, there's no harm in learning how to win at the major-league level.

Soria, the White Sox hope, can help with that. **BD**

2018 SCHEDULE

MARCH

29, 31 @ K.C.

APRIL

1 @ K.C.
 2, 3, 4 @ Tor.
 5, 7, 8 Det.
 9, 10, 11 T.B.
 12, 13, 14, 15 @ Min.
 16, 17, 18 @ Oak.
 20, 21, 22 Hou.
 23, 24, 25 Sea.
 26, 27, 28, 29 @ K.C.

MAY

1, 2 @ St.L.
 3, 4, 5, 6 Min.
 8, 9 Pit.
 11, 12, 13 @ Chi.
 15, 16 @ Pit.
 17, 18, 19, 20 Tex.
 21, 22, 23, 24 Bal.
 25, 26, 27 @ Det.
 28, 29, 30 @ Cle.

JUNE

1, 2, 3 Mil.
 5, 6, 7 @ Min.
 8, 9, 10 @ Bos.
 11, 12, 13, 14 Cle.
 15, 16, 17 Det.
 18, 19, 20 @ Cle.
 21, 22, 23, 24 Oak.
 26, 27, 28 Min.
 29, 30 @ Tex.

JULY

1 @ Tex.
 2, 3, 4 @ Cin.
 5, 6, 7, 8 @ Hou.
 10, 11 St.L.
 13, 14, 15 K.C.
 20, 21, 22 @ Sea.
 23, 24, 25, 26 @ L.A.
 27, 28, 29 Tor.
 31 K.C.

AUGUST

1, 2 K.C.
 3, 4, 5 @ T.B.
 6, 7, 8 N.Y.
 10, 11, 12 Cle.
 13, 14, 15 @ Det.
 17, 18, 19 K.C.
 21, 22 Min.
 23, 24, 25, 26 @ Det.
 27, 28, 29 @ N.Y.
 30, 31 Bos.

SEPTEMBER

1, 2 Bos.
 3, 4, 5 Det.
 7, 8, 9 L.A.
 10, 11, 12 @ K.C.
 14, 15, 16 @ Bal.
 18, 19, 20 @ Cle.
 21, 22, 23 Chi.
 24, 25, 26 Cle.
 28, 29, 30 @ Min.

Boldface indicates interleague games. All-Star Game is on July 17 in Washington, D.C.

40-MAN ROSTER

Major-league roster on Feb. 4 • Uniform numbers subject to change

Manager: Ned Yost (3)

Coaches: Hitting—Terry Bradshaw (44), Pitching—Cal Eldred (21), 1B—Mitch Maier (24), 3B—Mike Jirschele (23), Bench—Dale Sveum (21), Bullpen—Vance Wilson (18), Coach—Pedro Grifol (28)

NO.	PITCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
50	Miguel Almonte	R/R	6'2"	210	4/4/93
58	Scott Barlow	R/R	6'3"	215	12/18/92
41	Danny Duffy	L/L	6'3"	205	12/21/88
49	Heath Fillmyer	R/R	6'1"	180	5/16/94
33	Brian Flynn	L/L	6'7"	250	4/19/90
62	Sam Gaviglio	R/R	6'2"	195	5/22/90
37	Jesse Hahn	R/R	6'4"	215	7/30/89
39	Jason Hammel	R/R	6'6"	225	9/2/82
40	Kelvin Herrera	R/R	5'10"	200	12/31/89
51	Tim Hill	L/L	6'2"	200	2/10/90
65	Jakob Junis	R/R	6'2"	225	9/16/92
55	Nate Karns	R/R	6'3"	225	11/25/87
56	Brad Keller	R/R	6'5"	230	7/27/95
31	Ian Kennedy	R/R	6'0"	200	12/19/84
59	Andres Machado	R/R	6'0"	175	4/22/93
32	Brandon Maurer	R/R	6'5"	230	7/3/90
61	Kevin McCarthy	R/R	6'3"	200	2/22/92
34	Trevor Oaks	R/R	6'3"	220	3/26/93
43	Wily Peralta	R/R	6'1"	255	5/8/89
53	Eric Skoglund	L/L	6'7"	200	10/26/92
64	Burch Smith	R/R	6'4"	215	4/12/90
52	Eric Stout	L/L	6'3"	185	3/27/93
45	Kyle Zimmer	R/R	6'3"	225	9/13/91

NO.	CATCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
9	Drew Butera	R/R	6'1"	200	8/9/83
36	Cam Gallagher	R/R	6'3"	230	12/6/92
13	Salvador Perez	R/R	6'3"	240	5/10/90
22	Meibrys Vilorio	L/R	5'11"	175	2/15/97

NO.	INFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
19	Cheslor Cuthbert	R/R	6'1"	190	11/16/92
17	Hunter Dozier	R/R	6'4"	220	8/22/91
67	Samir Duenez	L/R	6'1"	195	6/11/96
2	Alcides Escobar	R/R	6'1"	185	12/16/86
15	Whit Merrifield	R/R	6'0"	195	1/24/89
27	Raul Mondesi	S/R	6'1"	185	7/27/95
46	Ramon Torres	S/R	5'11"	170	1/22/93

NO.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
38	Jorge Bonifacio	R/R	6'1"	195	6/4/93
14	Billy Burns	S/R	5'9"	170	8/30/89
4	Alex Gordon	L/R	6'1"	220	2/10/84
16	Paulo Orlando	R/R	6'2"	210	11/1/85
12	Jorge Soler	R/R	6'4"	215	2/25/92
11	Bubba Starling	R/R	6'4"	210	8/3/92

(AP Photo/Paul Sanayra)



4. KANSAS CITY ROYALS

Faced with an expensive class of free agents, each of them vital pieces of the Kansas City Royals' championship run, general manager Dayton Moore swallowed hard and waved goodbye.

Oh, there was still an outside chance Gold Glove first baseman Eric Hosmer would be retained to help bridge the gap to the next period of contention, but the painful truth of the Royals rebuild was losing center fielder Lorenzo Cain to the Milwaukee Brewers and possibly third baseman Mike Moustakas, who likely will fit better elsewhere for now.

Facing combined losses of nearly \$70 million over the past two seasons, Moore moved decisively and began by shipping away talented young lefty reliever Scott Alexander in order to clear veteran reliever Joakim Soria off the books. That three-way deal with the Los Angeles Dodgers and Chicago White Sox was an indication the Royals were open for business and would likely remain that way for the foreseeable future.

Closer Kelvin Herrera, staff ace Danny Duffy, veteran right-hander Ian Kennedy and second baseman Whit Merrifield could be on the move as well as the process moves forward. Fading left fielder Alex Gordon is halfway through a four-year, \$72-million deal, but it's unlikely the Royals will be able to find a taker.

After getting outscored by 89 runs a year ago, manager Ned Yost returns from an offseason hunting accident with

hopes of guiding an altered group to respectability.

At least five-time All-Star catcher Salvador Perez is still on hand as the impressive anchor, on the field and in the clubhouse. Entering his age-28 season with four Gold Gloves and a World Series MVP award, Perez is just entering his prime coming off career highs in home runs (27), RBI (80) and slugging percentage (.495).

Other rays of light include right fielder Jorge Bonifacio, following a 17-homer debut; Cuban slugger Jorge Soler, acquired in trade that sent Wade Davis to the Chicago Cubs; former first-round pick Hunter Dozier; and shortstop Raul Mondesi.

All things considered, this could take awhile. **BD**

MARCH	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER						
29, 31 APRIL 1 2, 3, 4 6, 7, 8 9, 10, 11 12, 13, 14, 15 16, 17, 18 20, 21, 22 24, 25 26, 27, 28, 29 30	Chi. Chi. @ Det. @ Cle. Sea. L.A. @ Tor. @ Det. Mil. @ Chi. @ Bos.	1, 2 3, 4, 5, 6 8, 9, 10 11, 12, 13 14, 15, 16 18, 19, 20 21, 22, 23 24, 25, 26, 27 28, 29, 30	@ Bos. Det. @ Bal. @ Cle. T.B. N.Y. @ St.L. @ Tex. Min.	1, 2, 3 4, 5, 6 7, 8, 9, 10 12, 13 15, 16, 17 18, 19, 20 22, 23, 24 26, 27 29, 30	Oak. @ L.A. @ Oak. Cin. Hou. Tex. @ Hou. @ Mil. @ Sea.	1 2, 3 6, 7, 8 9, 10, 11 13, 14, 15 20, 21, 22 23, 24, 25 26, 27, 28, 29 31	@ Sea. Cle. Bos. @ Min. @ Chi. Min. Det. @ N.Y. @ Chi.	1, 2 3, 4, 5 6, 7, 8 10, 11, 12 13, 14, 15, 16 17, 18, 19 20, 21, 22, 23 24, 25, 26 28, 29 31	@ Chi. @ Min. Chi. St.L. Tor. @ Chi. @ T.B. Cle. Det. Bal.	1, 2 3, 4, 5 7, 8, 9 10, 11, 12 13, 14, 15, 16 17, 18, 19 20, 21, 22, 23 25, 26 27, 28, 29, 30	Bal. @ Cle. @ Min. Chi. Min. @ Pit. @ Det. @ Cin. Cle.

Boldface indicates interleague games. All-Star Game is on July 17 in Washington, D.C.



5. DETROIT TIGERS

As he settles into the manager's chair for another challenging run with a second-division club, you'd better believe Ron Gardenhire has packed his one-liners.

The new Detroit Tigers manager made that clear as he met with the media at the winter meetings in Orlando.

"Let me get out my roster so I know who we have," Gardenhire said to laughter. "You think I'm kidding, too."

Always quick with a quip, Gardenhire and his sense of humor will come in handy as the rebuilding Tigers attempt to replenish their farm system and waste as little of Miguel Cabrera's remaining career as possible. Now 60, Gardenhire is coming off a bout with prostate cancer and a fruitful season as bench coach for Torey Lovullo and the analytically savvy Arizona Diamondbacks.

Even with Michael Fulmer around to anchor the rotation, Gardenhire's Tigers stint, at least the initial portion, figures to fall more along the lines of the four straight 92-loss seasons that got him fired with the Minnesota Twins than the six division titles in his first nine seasons at the helm, which made him a popular personality around the A.L. Central.

That's what happens when you deal away Justin Verlander, Justin Upton, Justin Wilson, Alex Avila, J.D. Martinez and Ian Kinsler in a span of less than five months, as general manager Al Avila was forced to by the changing realities brought by the passing of beloved owner Mike Ilitch.

40-MAN ROSTER

Major-league roster on Feb. 4 • Uniform numbers subject to change

Manager: Ron Gardenhire (15)

Coaches: Hitting—Lloyd McClendon (20), Phil Clark (59), Pitching—Chris Bosio (29), 1B—Ramon Santiago (39), 3B—Dave Clark (25), Bench—Steve Liddle (43), Bullpen—Rick Anderson (38), Coach—Joe Vavra (52)

NO.	PITCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
62	Sandy Baez	R/R	6'2"	180	11/25/93
51	Johnny Barbato	R/R	6'1"	235	7/11/92
64	Chad Bell	R/L	6'3"	200	2/28/89
48	Matthew Boyd	L/L	6'3"	215	2/2/91
31	Ryan Carpenter	L/L	6'5"	210	8/22/90
45	Buck Farmer	L/R	6'4"	225	2/20/91
50	Mike Fiers	R/R	6'2"	200	6/15/85
32	Michael Fulmer	R/R	6'3"	210	3/15/93
61	Shane Greene	R/R	6'4"	210	11/17/88
36	Blaine Hardy	L/L	6'2"	215	3/14/87
66	Eduardo Jimenez	R/R	6'0"	183	4/4/95
77	Joe Jimenez	R/R	6'3"	220	1/17/95
63	Jairo Labourt	L/L	6'4"	205	3/7/94
57	Artie Lewicki	R/R	6'3"	195	4/8/92
60	Gerson Moreno	R/R	6'0"	175	9/10/95
44	Daniel Norris	L/L	6'2"	195	4/25/93
26	Zac Reininger	S/R	6'3"	170	1/28/93
53	Warwick Saupold	R/R	6'1"	195	1/16/90
65	Gregory Soto	L/L	6'1"	180	2/11/95
68	Daniel Stumpf	L/L	6'2"	200	1/4/91
56	Spencer Turnbull	R/R	6'3"	215	9/18/92
54	Drew VerHagen	R/R	6'6"	230	10/22/90
30	Alex Wilson	R/R	6'0"	215	11/3/86
27	Jordan Zimmermann	R/R	6'2"	225	5/23/86

NO.	CATCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
17	Grayson Greiner	R/R	6'6"	220	10/11/92
55	John Hicks	R/R	6'2"	230	8/31/89
34	James McCann	R/R	6'2"	210	6/13/90

NO.	INFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
40	Sergio Alcantara	S/R	5'9"	168	7/10/96
24	Miguel Cabrera	R/R	6'4"	240	4/18/83
46	Jeimer Candelario	S/R	6'1"	210	11/24/93
1	Jose Iglesias	R/R	5'11"	185	1/5/90
18	Dawel Lugo	R/R	6'0"	190	12/31/94
49	Dixon Machado	R/R	6'1"	170	2/22/92
41	Victor Martinez	S/R	6'2"	210	12/23/78

NO.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
9	Nick Castellanos	R/R	6'4"	210	3/4/92
13	Mike Gerber	L/R	6'0"	190	7/8/92
21	JaCoby Jones	R/R	6'2"	205	5/10/92
8	Mikie Mahtook	R/R	6'1"	200	11/30/89
12	Leonys Martin	L/R	6'2"	200	3/6/88
22	Victor Reyes	S/R	6'3"	170	10/5/94

(AP Photo/Nick Wass)

Entering his age-35 season, Cabrera still has six guaranteed years and \$184 million left on his contract. If he's able to shrug off a down 2017 and stay on the field, the 11-time All-Star could hit his way out of town, too.

Fading designated hitter Victor Martinez has one year at \$18 million left on his deal, but right-hander Jordan Zimmermann is still owed \$74 million over the next three seasons. Up to 11 more Tigers could qualify for salary arbitration after this season, which won't make things any easier as Avila and Gardenhire attempt a turnaround.

Better keep those jokes handy. **BD**

MARCH	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
29, 31 Pit.	1, 2 T.B.	1, 2, 3 Tor.	1, 2 @ Tor.	1 @ Tor.	1, 2 @ N.Y.
APRIL	3, 4, 5, 6 @ K.C.	5, 6, 7 @ Bos.	3, 4 @ Chi.	3, 4, 5 @ Oak.	3, 4, 5 @ Chi.
1 Pit.	7, 8, 9 @ Tex.	8, 9, 10 Cle.	5, 6, 7, 8 Cle.	6, 7, 8 @ L.A.	7, 8, 9 St. L.
2, 3, 4 K.C.	11, 12, 13 Sea.	12, 13, 14 Min.	9, 10, 11 @ T.B.	10, 11, 12 @ Min.	10, 11, 12 Hou.
5, 7, 8 @ Chi.	14, 15, 16 Cle.	15, 16, 17 @ Chi.	13, 14, 15 @ Hou.	13, 14, 15 Chi.	14, 15, 16 @ Cle.
9, 10, 11, 12 @ Cle.	17, 18, 19, 20 @ Sea.	19, 20 @ Cin.	20, 21, 22 @ Cin.	16, 17, 18, 19 @ Min.	17, 18, 19 Min.
13, 14, 15 N.Y.	21, 22, 23 @ Min.	22, 23, 24 @ Cle.	23, 24, 25 @ K.C.	21, 22 @ K.C.	20, 21, 22, 23 K.C.
17, 18, 19 Bal.	25, 26, 27 Chi.	25, 26, 27, 28 Oak.	27, 28, 29 @ Tor.	23, 24, 25, 26 Chi.	25, 26, 27 @ Min.
20, 21, 22 K.C.	28, 29, 30, 31 L.A.	29, 30	31	28, 29 @ K.C.	28, 29, 30 @ Mil.
24, 25, 26 @ Pit.				30, 31 @ N.Y.	
27, 28, 29 @ Bal.					
30 T.B.					

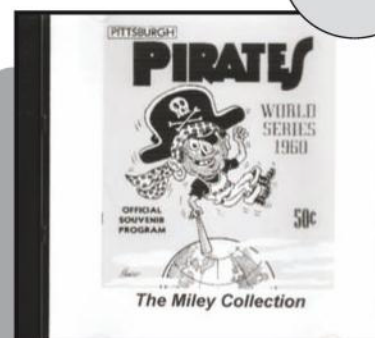
Boldface indicates interleague games. All-Star Game is on July 17 in Washington, D.C.

HISTORIC

Baseball Broadcasts on CD

Date		Item#
7/10/34	<i>Hubbell fans five consecutive Hall of Famers in All-Star Game.</i>	2391
10/7/44	<i>Musial sparks Cardinals over Browns in Game 4 of World Series.</i>	3071
10/9/44	<i>Cardinals beat Browns in Game 6 for fifth world championship.</i>	3315
10/3/51	<i>Giants stun Dodgers in playoff on Thomson's homer.</i>	1002
5/18/55	<i>Mantle's grand slam in bottom of 7th lifts Yankees over White Sox.</i>	3205
10/1/55	<i>Three homers spark Dodgers to Game 4 win over Yankees.</i>	3020
10/4/55	<i>Dodgers blank Yankees in Game 7 for first world championship.</i>	2302
10/8/56	<i>Larsen hurls perfect game against Dodgers in Game 5 of Series.</i>	1003
8/10/57	<i>Dodgers blank Pirates at Forbes Field behind Drysdale, Snider.</i>	3215
9/29/57	<i>Last game in Brooklyn Dodgers history, a 2-1 loss at Philadelphia.</i>	2991
9/22/59	<i>White Sox beat Indians to capture American League pennant.</i>	2900
10/13/60	<i>Mazeroski's homer stuns Yankees in Game 7 of World Series.</i>	1006
4/11/62	<i>Mets fall to Cards in first game in franchise history.</i>	1198
7/28/62	<i>Reese, Dean TV audio of Yankees 4-3 win over White Sox.</i>	3183
10/2/62	<i>Dodgers edge Giants 8-7 to even playoff at one game apiece.</i>	3040
6/27/64	<i>Reese, Dean TV audio of Yankees 5-4 win over Tigers.</i>	3176
6/5/65	<i>Reese, Dean TV audio of Yankees 4-3 win over White Sox.</i>	3178
8/14/65	<i>Reese, Dean TV audio of Yankees 3-2 win over Athletics.</i>	3165
10/3/65	<i>Mays belts 52nd homer in Giants win over Reds at Candlestick.</i>	2950
6/10/66	<i>Indians' Siebert no-hits Senators. Joined in progress in top of first.</i>	3166
4/14/67	<i>Rohr's bid for no-hitter against Yanks ends with two outs in ninth.</i>	3236
10/10/68	<i>Lolich outduels Gibson in Game 7 of World Series.</i>	1018
5/16/71	<i>Dodgers score six late runs to beat Giants at Candlestick Park.</i>	3049
10/11/73	<i>Hunter blank Orioles in ALCS Game 5 as A's capture pennant.</i>	3133
4/8/74	<i>Aaron breaks Ruth's home run record in win over Dodgers.</i>	3062
4/7/78	<i>Fidrych pitches Tigers to opening day win over Blue Jays.</i>	3180
4/17/78	<i>Tigers score four runs in bottom of ninth to beat White Sox.</i>	3025
10/4/80	<i>Phillies top Expos on Schmidt homer to win NL East crown.</i>	2935
10/12/80	<i>Phillies edge Astros in Game 5 of NLCS to win pennant.</i>	2997
9/19/81	<i>Brewers score four runs in top of 8th to beat Orioles 11-8.</i>	3102
10/14/84	<i>Gibson's two homers in Game 5 bring Tigers World Series title.</i>	3239
9/15/87	<i>Evans homers twice to boost Tigers over Red Sox.</i>	3126
10/4/87	<i>Tanana's shutout lifts Tigers to AL East title on last day of season.</i>	3163

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AMERICAN LEAGUE EAST

ROOKIES TO WATCH



AP Photo/David Goldman

GLEYBER TORRES

Gleyber Torres, Yankees, 2B

The key pickup in the Cubs-Yankees trade that shipped Aroldis Chapman to Chicago in July 2016, Torres built on his prospect status by winning Arizona Fall League MVP honors that fall—at age 19. He continued his rapid rise in 2017, collecting 23 extra-base hits and an .863 OPS in 55 games in Double-A and Triple-A ball before a sliding injury required Tommy John surgery on his non-throwing elbow. His quick hands are an asset at the plate and in the field, and Torres may soon secure New York's second-base job.



TOP ROOKIES

Aaron Judge became the sixth rookie in MLB history to club 30 or more homers, score 100 runs and total more than 100 RBI.

Rookie, Team	Year	HR	R	RBI
Aaron Judge, Yankees	2017	52	128	114
Al Rosen, Indians	1950	37	100	116
Albert Pujols, Cardinals	2001	37	112	130
Hal Trosky, Indians	1934	35	117	142
Walt Dropo, Red Sox	1950	34	101	144
Ted Williams, Red Sox	1939	31	131	145



AARON JUDGE

Chance Sisco, Orioles, C

With Wellington Castillo joining the White Sox, Sisco is positioned to start behind the plate for the Orioles. In five minor-league seasons, the 23-year-old Sisco has been a patient hitter who has made consistent contact, batting .311 with a .390 OBP. His defensive game required more fine-tuning, but Sisco has improved enough to be an adequate catcher. He went 6-for-18 (.333) with two doubles and two homers during a September call-up last season, a solid start that bodes well for the Orioles.

Austin Hays, Orioles, OF

Right field is up for grabs this spring, and Hays, who started 2017 in Class-A ball and advanced to Baltimore, is the early favorite. With a short right-handed stroke and impressive bat speed, Hays batted .329, slugged .593, and popped 32 doubles and 32 homers between high Class-A Frederick and Double-A Bowie before joining the Orioles in September. Hays, who batted .217 (13-for-60) in his big-league debut, has the skills and arm to play all three outfield spots.

Jake Bauers, Rays, 1B

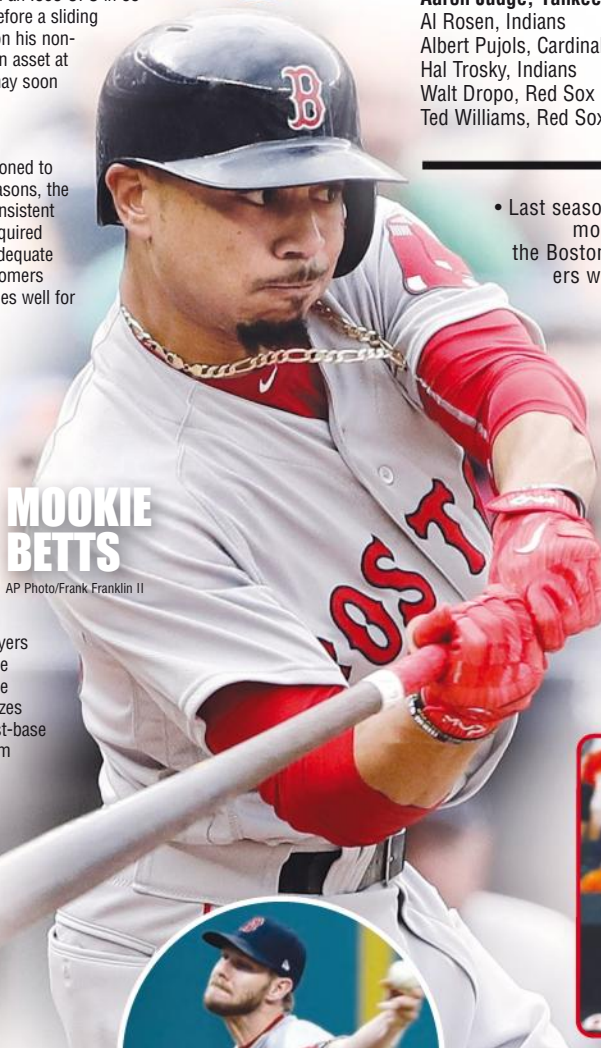
The retooling Rays have an opening at first base, where Bauers will challenge veteran Brad Miller. Over the last two seasons, Bauers—acquired from the Padres in 2014's Wil Myers trade—has batted .269 with a .369 OBP and 27 homers at the Double-A and Triple-A levels before turning 22 in October. The left-handed hitter centers the ball with a short swing and utilizes the whole field. Bauers has proven to be more than just a first-base option. He handled right field successfully for Triple-A Durham last season.

Miguel Andujar, Yankees, 3B

Unless the Yankees acquire a veteran third baseman, Andujar may take over at third after a breakout 2017 campaign. Andujar, who turned 23 on March 2, combined to hit .315/.352/.498 for Double-A Trenton and Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes Barre, collecting 36 doubles and 16 homers in 125 games. With the Yankees in September, he went 4-for-7 with two doubles and four RBI. The Yankees infield could feature two rookies in 2018. Rookies Andujar, Torres and Thairo Estrada will compete and young veterans Ronald Torreyes and Tyler Wade are in the mix.

MOOKIE BETTS

AP Photo/Frank Franklin II



- Last season, 13 A.L. East players clubbed 25 or more home runs, and not one played for the Boston Red Sox. The Orioles had four players with 25-plus homers, and the Yankees, Blue Jays and Rays each had three. Boston's leading home-run hitter was **Mookie Betts** with 24. The last time the Red Sox failed to have a 25-homer guy was 1992, when **Tom Brunansky** led the team with 15.

- In 2017, eleven American League players who qualified for the batting title hit .300 or higher—and all played for teams in the A.L. Central or A.L. West. The leading hitters in the A.L. East were **Trey Mancini**, Orioles (.293), **Jonathan Schoop**, Orioles (.293), **Didi Gregorius**, Yankees (.287), **Adam Jones**, Orioles (.285), **Aaron Judge**, Yankees (.284) and **Corey Dickerson**, Rays (.282).



JONATHAN SCHOOP

AP Photo/Patrick Semansky

DID YOU KNOW... that Chris Sale of the Red Sox, who fanned 308 batters in 2017, became the first pitcher in MLB history to fan 300 or more batters in a season without being credited with a shutout? Three pitchers had a 300-strikeout season with only one shutout—Sam McDowell, Indians (304 Ks in 1970), Pedro Martinez, Red Sox (313 Ks in 1999) and Curt Schilling, Diamondbacks (316 Ks in 2002).



CHRIS SALE

AP Photo/Tony Dejak

DID YOU KNOW... Kelly Johnson is the only player in MLB history to play for all five A.L. East Division franchises? Johnson played for the Blue Jays in 2011-12, Rays in 2013, Yankees in 2014, Red Sox in 2014, and Orioles in 2014. He also played for the Braves (2005-2009, 2015-16), Diamondbacks (2010-11) and Mets (2015-16).

BALTIMORE ORIOLES

World Series Titles: 3
Pennants: 7
Division Titles: 9
Wins: 8,667
Losses: 9,505
100-W Seasons: 5
100-L Seasons: 10



CAL RIPKEN

BOSTON RED SOX

World Series Titles: 8
Pennants: 12
Division Titles: 9
Wins: 9,410
Losses: 8,776
100-W Seasons: 3
100-L Seasons: 7



CARL YASTRZEMSKI

NEW YORK YANKEES

World Series Titles: 27
Pennants: 41
Division Titles: 18
Wins: 10,175
Losses: 7,719
100-W Seasons: 19
100-L Seasons: 2



DEREK JETER

TAMPA BAY RAYS

World Series Titles: 0
Pennants: 1
Division Titles: 2
Wins: 1,500
Losses: 1,738
100-W Seasons: 0
100-L Seasons: 3



EVAN LONGORIA

TORONTO BLUE JAYS

World Series Titles: 2
Pennants: 2
Division Titles: 6
Wins: 3,243
Losses: 3,274
100-W Seasons: 0
100-L Seasons: 3



DAVE STIEB

FRANCHISE LEADERS

HR: Cal Ripken (431)
H: Cal Ripken (3,184)
RBI: Cal Ripken (1,695)
W: Jim Palmer (268)
SO: Jim Palmer (2,212)
Svs: Gregg Olson (160)

FRANCHISE LEADERS

HR: Ted Williams (521)
H: Carl Yastrzemski (3,419)
RBI: Carl Yastrzemski (1,844)
W: Roger Clemens/Cy Young (192)
SO: Roger Clemens (2,590)
Svs: Jonathan Papelbon (219)

FRANCHISE LEADERS

HR: Babe Ruth (659)
H: Derek Jeter (3,465)
RBI: Lou Gehrig (1,995)
W: Whitey Ford (236)
SO: Andy Pettitte (2,020)
Svs: Mariano Rivera (652)

FRANCHISE LEADERS

HR: Evan Longoria (261)
H: Carl Crawford (1,480)
RBI: Evan Longoria (892)
W: James Shields (87)
SO: James Shields (1,250)
Svs: Roberto Hernandez (101)

FRANCHISE LEADERS

HR: Carlos Delgado (336)
H: Tony Fernandez (1,583)
RBI: Carlos Delgado (1,058)
W: Dave Stieb (175)
SO: Dave Stieb (1,658)
Svs: Tom Henke (217)

AP Photo/Roberto Bora

David Durochik/SportPics

AP Photo/Charles Krupa

AP Photo/Steve Nesius

David Durochik/SportPics

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION PREVIEW

By Evan Drellich

Yankees general manager Brian Cashman ventured up to Boston in the middle of January for the city's baseball writers awards dinner. Named executive of the year—yes, by a body of Boston writers—Cashman was seated next to Sox president of baseball operations Dave Dombrowski.

Those two have ushered in the “good old days,” at least for fans of those two teams.

“You guys are no different than us at the Evil Empire,”

players. As a team, the Sox hit 168 in 2017.

“Yeah, we met at the All-Star Game, Home Run Derby,” Stanton said of Judge. “A lot of craziness going on during that time. We just said hello, and we respect each other's game and had fun in the derby and the game.

“I've spoken to him there since, a couple days (before the trade was announced), and we're excited. We're excited to get better together and use our talents together because we're very similar. And we're going to learn from

AARON
JUDGE



The Yankees and Red Sox are built for a classic rival showdown to determine whose king of the hill, with the Blue Jays, Rays and Orioles on the outside looking in

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

Cashman told a room full of Sox fans. “You want to win, as do we. I think the rivalry is alive and well, as it should be.”

Indeed, the American League East appears to have entered a time warp. Following two consecutive division titles for the Red Sox, we seem headed now for a classic Boston-N.Y. showdown in 2018, while the smaller-market teams are left to scratch and claw their way into the mix.

The Yankees' Death Star has been rebuilt. No move anywhere drew greater attention prior to 2018 than Cashman's trade for major-league home-run king Giancarlo Stanton.

Stanton's 59 home runs paired with Aaron Judge's 52, plus Gary Sanchez' 33, add up to 144 home runs from three

each other and make each other better.”

The Red Sox, at the time of the dinner, had completed no moves of significance, other than to re-sign Mitch Moreland. A staring contest with free agent J.D. Martinez appeared Boston's biggest offseason undertaking following a second straight 93-win season.

In a slow winter most everywhere, one of the juiciest possibilities was a trade of Manny Machado, but he is likely to remain an Orioles fixture come Opening Day. The Orioles face a ton of uncertainty going forward, and the Jays and Rays just didn't do much to make you think they can compete with the classic big-market behemoths. **BD**

40-MAN ROSTER

Major-league roster on Feb. 4 • Uniform numbers subject to change

Manager: Aaron Boone (17)

Coaches: Hitting—Marcus Thames (63), Pitching—Larry Rothschild (58), 1B—Reggie Willits (56), 3B—Phil Nevin (-), Bench—Josh Bard (-), Bullpen—Mike Harkey (60)

NO.	PITCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
87	Albert Abreu	R/R	6'2"	175	9/26/95
88	Domingo Acevedo	R/R	6'7"	250	3/6/94
68	Dellin Betances	R/R	6'8"	265	3/23/88
85	Luis Cessa	R/R	6'0"	205	4/25/92
54	Aroldis Chapman	L/L	6'4"	212	2/28/88
50	Giovanny Gallegos	R/R	6'2"	210	8/14/91
64	Domingo German	R/R	6'2"	175	8/4/92
55	Sonny Gray	R/R	5'10"	190	11/7/89
57	Chad Green	L/R	6'3"	210	5/24/91
61	Ben Heller	R/R	6'3"	205	8/5/91
65	Jonathan Holder	R/R	6'2"	235	6/9/93
48	Tommy Kahnle	R/R	6'1"	235	8/7/89
89	Jonathan Loaisiga	R/R	5'11"	165	11/2/94
47	Jordan Montgomery	L/L	6'6"	225	12/27/92
30	David Robertson	R/R	5'11"	195	4/9/85
52	CC Sabathia	L/L	6'6"	300	7/21/80
40	Luis Severino	R/R	6'2"	215	2/20/94
45	Chasen Shreve	L/L	6'4"	195	7/12/90
19	Masahiro Tanaka	R/R	6'3"	215	11/1/88
43	Adam Warren	R/R	6'1"	224	8/25/87

NO.	CATCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
38	Kyle Higashioka	R/R	6'1"	200	4/20/90
28	Austin Romine	R/R	6'1"	220	11/22/88
24	Gary Sanchez	R/R	6'2"	230	12/2/92

NO.	INFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
67	Miguel Andujar	R/R	6'0"	215	3/2/95
26	Tyler Austin	R/R	6'2"	220	9/6/91
33	Greg Bird	L/R	6'4"	220	11/9/92
90	Thairo Estrada	R/R	5'10"	185	2/22/96
18	Didi Gregorius	L/R	6'3"	205	2/18/90
81	Gleyber Torres	R/R	6'1"	175	12/13/96
74	Ronald Torreyes	R/R	5'8"	151	9/2/92
39	Tyler Wade	L/R	6'1"	185	11/23/94

NO.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
66	Jabari Blash	R/R	6'5"	235lbs	7/4/89
70	Jake Cave	L/L	6'0"	200	12/4/92
22	Jacoby Ellsbury	L/L	6'1"	195	9/11/83
77	Clint Frazier	R/R	6'1"	190	9/6/94
11	Brett Gardner	L/L	5'11"	195	8/24/83
31	Aaron Hicks	S/R	6'1"	202	10/2/89
99	Aaron Judge	R/R	6'7"	282	4/26/92
71	Billy McKinney	L/L	6'1"	205	8/23/94
27	Giancarlo Stanton	R/R	6'6"	245	11/8/89

(AP Photo/Willie J. Allen Jr.)



1. NEW YORK YANKEES

The only question the Yanks face on paper is their starting pitching. New York was a win away from the World Series in 2018, and with Stanton in the fold, the offense should be a sight to see.

"Last year, we were the team that everybody loved, that feel-good story," CC Sabathia said on MLB Network. "But getting Giancarlo just brings us back to being that hated team. That's what we like. We want to go out there, put the best team on the field and crush everybody every game."

Sabathia re-upped with the Yanks on a one-year, \$10-million deal, keeping intact a rotation led by Luis Severino, Masahiro Tanaka and Sonny Gray. Tanaka decided not to opt out.

Severino had such an encouraging 2017 season, with a 2.98 ERA. But the workload for a pitcher who will be 24 years old on Opening Day bears watching. He threw 209.1 innings, including the postseason, after throwing 151.1 innings in 2016 between the majors and minors.

The bullpen was outrageously talented in 2017, and there's no reason to expect otherwise now.

One of the larger questions the Yankees face is leadership. They think they have the answer. Manager Aaron Boone, with no prior coaching experience whatsoever, is going to face even greater scrutiny in a market already built around dissecting every managerial move. He replaced Joe Girardi with the hope Boone better connects with younger players.

Regression is going to be a key word for the Yankees in 2018: do guys like Judge take a step back? Fairly or unfair-

ly, Boone will be judged on those results.

Sanchez, not known for his defense behind the plate, faced some tough love from Girardi, a former backstop.

"Right now, just getting to know each other," Boone said of Sanchez at the winter meetings. "Look, catching in Major League Baseball, it's a demanding position. It's such an important position, and it's a chance to impact like no other position on the field with things that don't necessarily show up in the stat column. Obviously, he's a tremendous talent. He's already had massive success as a young player. So just building that relationship, gaining that trust, and letting him know that he's going to be very well supported by me and our coaching staff." **BD**

2018 SCHEDULE

MARCH

29, 30, 31 @ Tor.
APRIL
 1 @ Tor.
 2, 4 T.B.
 5, 6, 7, 8 Bal.
 10, 11, 12 @ Bos.
 13, 14, 15 @ Det.
16, 17 Mia.
 19, 20, 21, 22 Tor.
 23, 24, 25, 26 Min.
 27, 28, 29 @ L.A.
 30 @ Hou.

MAY

1, 2, 3 @ Hou.
 4, 5, 6 Cle.
 8, 9, 10 Bos.
 11, 12, 13 Oak.
15, 16 @ Wash.
 18, 19, 20 @ K.C.
 21, 22, 23 @ Tex.
 25, 26, 27 L.A.
 28, 29, 30 Hou.
 31 @ Bal.

JUNE

1, 2, 3 @ Bal.
 5, 6 @ Tor.
8, 9, 10 @ N.Y.
12, 13 Wash.
 14, 15, 16, 17 T.B.
 19, 20, 21 Sea.
 22, 23, 24 @ T.B.
 25, 26, 27 @ Phi.
 29, 30 Bos.

JULY

1 Bos.
2, 3, 4 Atl.
 6, 7, 8 @ Tor.
 9, 10, 11 @ Bal.
 12, 13, 14, 15 @ Cle.
20, 21, 22 N.Y.
 23, 24, 25 @ T.B.
 26, 27, 28, 29 K.C.
 31 Bal.

AUGUST

1 Bal.
 2, 3, 4, 5 @ Bos.
 6, 7, 8 @ Chi.
 9, 10, 11, 12 Tex.
 14, 15, 16 T.B.
 17, 18, 19 Tor.
21, 22 @ Mia.
 24, 25, 26 @ Bal.
 27, 28, 29 Chi.
 30, 31 Det.

SEPTEMBER

1, 2 Det.
 3, 4, 5 @ Oak.
 7, 8, 9 @ Sea.
 10, 11, 12 @ Min.
 14, 15, 16 Tor.
 18, 19, 20 Bos.
 21, 22, 23 Bal.
 24, 25, 26, 27 @ T.B.
 28, 29, 30 @ Bos.

Boldface indicates interleague games. All-Star Game is on July 17 in Washington, D.C.



CHRIS SALE



2. BOSTON RED SOX

The Red Sox have their own first-time manager, former Astros bench coach Alex Cora. He's charged with getting more out of a young group that just didn't look quite as good as it did in 2016: Mookie Betts, Jackie Bradley Jr., Xander Bogaerts and others.

Health hampered all three players in 2017, probably more than their relationships with ex-manager John Farrell. Nonetheless, Cora's arrival is expected to coincide with a rebound. Even as the Red Sox pursued J.D. Martinez over the winter, Dombrowski kept referring to expected internal improvement that could boost an offense sorely hurt by David Ortiz' departure.

The near-impossible question to answer until the end of the year is, how much better can the homegrown talent be? What is the reasonable expectation?

For example: Betts was the runner-up in the American League MVP vote in 2016, and then still had a great year in 2017. But he was not in the same conversation as Trout. Does the truth—the real Mookie—lie somewhere in between, or was the 2016 version the standard and the 2017 performance an anomaly?

The pitching staff is virtually unchanged. After Chris Sale delivered the second-most strikeouts by a Red Sox pitcher in a single season—308, six off Pedro Martinez' mark from 1999—his goal is to maintain effectiveness throughout sea-

(AP Photo/Ted S. Warren)

40-MAN ROSTER

Major-league roster on Feb. 4 • Uniform numbers subject to change

Manager: Alex Cora (28)
Coaches: Hitting—Tim Hyers (51), Andy Barkett (58), Pitching—Dana LeVangie (60), Brian Bannister, 1B—Tom Goodwin (82), 3B—Carlos Febles (52), Bench—Ron Roenicke (10), Bullpen—Craig Bjornson (53), Coach—Ramon Vazquez (55)

NO.	PITCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
68	Matt Barnes	R/R	6'4"	210	6/17/90
78	Jalen Beeks	L/L	5'11"	195	7/10/93
79	Ty Buttrey	L/R	6'6"	230	3/31/93
29	Roenis Elias	L/L	6'1"	205	8/1/88
37	Heath Hembree	R/R	6'4"	210	1/13/89
66	Williams Jerez	L/L	6'4"	200	5/16/92
61	Brian Johnson	L/L	6'4"	235	12/7/90
56	Joe Kelly	R/R	6'1"	190	6/9/88
46	Craig Kimbrel	R/R	6'0"	210	5/28/88
71	Austin Maddox	R/R	6'2"	220	5/13/91
31	Drew Pomeranz	R/L	6'6"	240	11/22/88
22	Rick Porcello	R/R	6'5"	205	12/27/88
24	David Price	L/L	6'5"	215	8/26/85
52	Eduardo Rodriguez	L/L	6'2"	220	4/7/93
41	Chris Sale	L/L	6'6"	180	3/30/89
63	Robby Scott	S/L	6'3"	220	8/29/89
67	Chandler Shepherd	R/R	6'3"	185	8/25/92
39	Carson Smith	R/R	6'6"	215	10/19/89
64	Ben Taylor	R/R	6'3"	225	11/12/92
47	Tyler Thornburg	R/R	5'11"	190	9/29/88
76	Hector Velazquez	R/R	6'0"	180	11/26/88
67	Brandon Workman	R/R	6'5"	235	8/13/88
35	Steven Wright	R/R	6'2"	215	8/30/84

NO.	CATCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
3	Sandy Leon	S/R	5'10"	225	3/13/89
23	Blake Swihart	S/R	6'1"	200	4/3/92
7	Christian Vazquez	R/R	5'9"	195	8/21/90

NO.	INFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
2	Xander Bogaerts	R/R	6'1"	210	10/1/92
11	Rafael Devers	L/R	6'0"	195	10/24/96
40	Marco Hernandez	L/R	6'0"	200	9/6/92
12	Brock Holt	L/R	5'10"	180	6/11/88
5	Tzu-Wei Lin	L/R	5'9"	155	2/15/94
17	Deven Marrero	R/R	6'1"	195	8/25/90
18	Mitch Moreland	L/L	6'2"	230	9/6/85
15	Dustin Pedroia	R/R	5'9"	175	8/17/83
13	Hanley Ramirez	R/R	6'2"	235	12/23/83
59	Sam Travis	R/R	6'0"	205	8/27/93

NO.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
16	Andrew Benintendi	L/L	5'10"	170	7/6/94
50	Mookie Betts	R/R	5'9"	180	10/7/92
19	Jackie Bradley Jr.	L/R	5'10"	200	4/19/90
54	Bryce Brentz	R/R	6'0"	210	12/30/88

son. After a performance drop-off by Sale down the stretch, the Red Sox have a plan in place to build up Sale more slowly this season.

"I was new here last year. I came in and I felt like I had to prove something," Sale said in January. "I hadn't thrown a single pitch in front of you guys (in the media), in front of any of the fans. So I felt, part of me felt, I had to come in and say, 'Hey, this is what you're getting.' And you know, I showed up to spring training really ready to go. You know, my arm was in almost season-form, and I think we're going to gradually build that up this year instead of, you know, coming out hot out of the gate." **BD**

2018 SCHEDULE

MARCH	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
29, 30, 31 @ T.B.	1, 2 K.C.	1, 2, 3 @ Hou.	1 @ N.Y.	2, 3, 4, 5 N.Y.	1, 2 @ Chi.
APRIL	3, 4, 5, 6 @ Tex.	5, 6, 7 Det.	2, 3, 4 @ Wash.	7, 8, 9 @ Tor.	3, 4, 5 @ Atl.
1 @ T.B.	8, 9, 10 @ N.Y.	8, 9, 10 Chi.	6, 7, 8 @ K.C.	10, 11, 12 @ Bal.	7, 8, 9 Hou.
2, 3 @ Mia.	@ Tor.	11, 12, 13 @ Bal.	9, 10, 11 Tex.	14, 15 @ Phi.	11, 12, 13 Tor.
5, 7, 8 T.B.	14, 15, 16 Oak.	14, 15, 16, 17 @ Sea.	12, 13, 14, 15 Tor.	17, 18, 19 T.B.	14, 15, 16 N.Y.
10, 11, 12 N.Y.	18, 19, 20 Bal.	19, 20, 21 @ Min.	20, 21, 22 @ Det.	20, 21, 22, 23 Cle.	18, 19, 20 @ Pit.
13, 14, 15, 16 Bal.	22, 23, 24 @ T.B.	22, 23, 24 Sea.	23, 24, 25 @ Bal.	24, 25, 26 @ T.B.	21, 22, 23 @ Cle.
17, 18, 19 @ L.A.	25, 26, 27 Atl.	26, 27, 28 L.A.	26, 27, 28, 29 Min.	28, 29 Mia.	24, 25, 26 Bal.
20, 21, 22 @ Oak.	Tor.	29, 30 @ N.Y.	30, 31 Phi.	30, 31 @ Chi.	28, 29, 30 N.Y.
24, 25, 26 @ Tor.	31 @ Hou.				
27, 28, 29 T.B.					
30 K.C.					

Boldface indicates interleague games. All-Star Game is on July 17 in Washington, D.C.

JOSH DONALDSON



3. TORONTO BLUE JAYS

A good or bad first half might just be the difference between a future in Toronto for Josh Donaldson.

The third baseman (and 2015 American League MVP) is making \$23 million in 2018, a record for an arbitration-eligible player. But entering his walk year, no long-term deal has been reached, and he could be at the end of his run in Toronto if the Blue Jays are out of it at midseason and prefer to deal him.

Otherwise, good health stands as key for the Blue Jays more than it does others, simply because they didn't have enough of it in 2017. Donaldson was in that group, playing in 113 games, down from 155.

Starter Aaron Sanchez wound up on the 60-day disabled list and threw just 36 innings a year after he had worked 192. His eighth and final start of the season was July 19.

"Naturally I think the rotation's going to be that much better with getting Sanchez back, that's going to be a huge boost," manager John Gibbons said. "If you get (J.A.) Happ back, get a good five months anyway from (Marco) Estrada, you're feeling pretty good."

A blister on Sanchez' right hand just wouldn't go away.

"I'm pretty confident that my finger, the way it is, will be fine this year," Sanchez told reporters in January. "I'll have to maintain it like I have in years past, but no more of the disaster that it had last year."

40-MAN ROSTER

Major-league roster on Feb. 4 • Uniform numbers subject to change

Manager: John Gibbons (5)

Coaches: Hitting—Brook Jacoby (26), Pitching—Pete Walker (40), 1B—Tim Lincecum (21), 3B—Luis Rivera (4), Bench—DeMarlo Hale (16), Bullpen—Dane Johnson (35)

NO.	PITCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
24	Danny Barnes	L/R	6'1"	195	21/10/89
31	Joe Biagini	R/R	6'5"	240	29/05/90
72	Ryan Borucki	L/L	6'4"	175	31/03/94
50	Matt Dermody	R/L	6'5"	190	04/07/90
25	Marco Estrada	R/R	6'0"	180	05/07/83
44	Taylor Guerrieri	R/R	6'2"	210	01/12/92
33	J.A. Happ	L/L	6'5"	205	19/10/82
62	Aaron Loup	L/L	5'11"	210	19/12/87
58	Tim Mayza	L/L	6'3"	220	15/01/92
54	Roberto Osuna	R/R	6'2"	215	07/02/95
45	Thomas Pannone	L/L	6'0"	195	28/04/94
36	Carlos Ramirez	R/R	6'5"	205	24/04/91
41	Aaron Sanchez	R/R	6'4"	215	01/07/92
6	Marcus Stroman	R/R	5'8"	180	01/05/91
52	Ryan Tepera	R/R	6'2"	195	03/11/87

NO.	CATCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
9	Danny Jansen	R/R	6'2"	225	15/04/95
22	Luke Maile	R/R	6'3"	225	06/02/91
55	Russell Martin	R/R	5'10"	205	15/02/83
77	Reese McGuire	L/R	5'11"	215	02/03/95

NO.	INFELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
1	Aledmys Diaz	R/R	6'1"	195	01/08/90
20	Josh Donaldson	R/R	6'1"	210	08/12/85
13	Lourdes Gurriel	R/R	6'2"	185	19/10/93
8	Kendrys Morales	S/R	6'1"	225	20/06/83
61	Gift Ngoepe	R/R	5'8"	200	18/01/90
14	Justin Smoak	S/L	6'4"	220	05/12/86
26	Yangervis Solarte	S/R	5'11"	205	7/7/87
22	Rowdy Tellez	L/L	6'4"	220	16/03/95
29	Devon Travis	R/R	5'9"	190	21/02/91
2	Troy Tulowitzki	R/R	6'3"	205	10/10/84
7	Richard Urena	S/R	6'0"	185	26/02/96

NO.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
30	Anthony Alford	R/R	6'1"	215	20/07/94
3	Ezequiel Carrera	L/L	5'11"	185	11/06/87
18	Curtis Granderson	L/R	6'1"	200	3/16/81
15	Randal Grichuk	R/R	6'1"	205	8/13/91
37	Teoscar Hernandez	R/R	6'2"	180	15/10/92
28	Steve Pearce	R/R	5'11"	200	13/04/83
11	Kevin Pillar	R/R	6'0"	205	04/01/89
23	Dalton Pompey	S/R	6'2"	195	11/12/92
25	Dwight Smith Jr.	L/R	5'11"	195	26/10/92

(AP Photo/Mike Carlson)

The Blue Jays did spend their winter building up some depth, spreading some available money around to multiple spots rather than pooling it all into a big name or two. They picked up infield help in Yangervis Solarte, Aledmys Diaz and Gift Ngoepe.

Randal Grichuk, formerly of the Cardinals, was picked up to help the outfield. Curtis Granderson, a New York staple, signed a one-year deal to head north as well.

That group alone may not be enough to upgrade the Jays offense, though, and that was a stated goal.

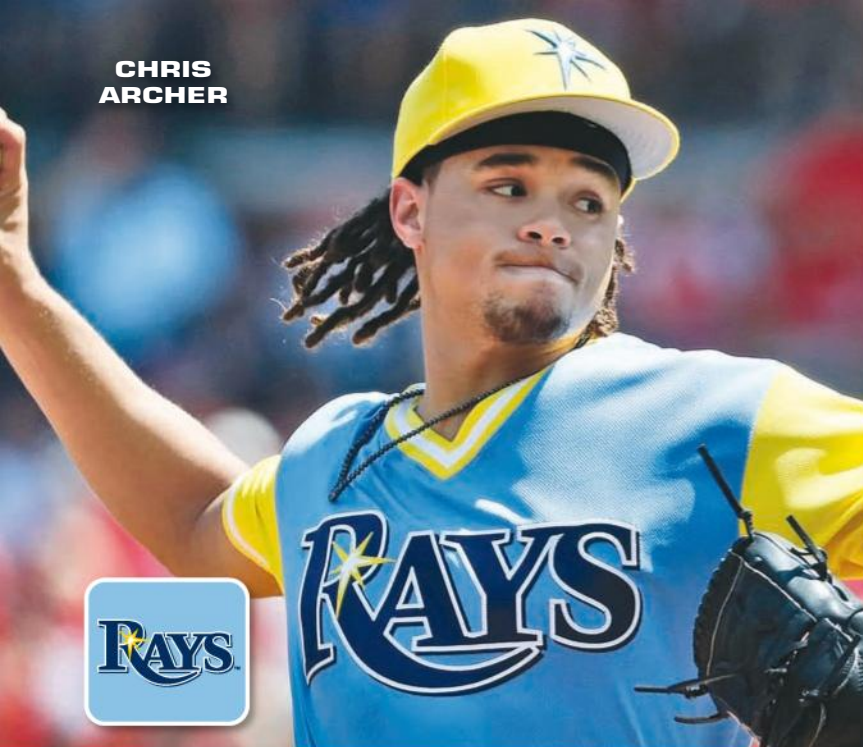
"We need some more offense, there's no doubt about that in my mind," Gibbons said in December. **BD**

2018 SCHEDULE

MARCH	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER				
29, 30, 31 APRIL 1 2, 3, 4 6, 7, 8 9, 10, 11 13, 14, 15 16, 17, 18 19, 20, 21, 22 24, 25, 26 27, 28, 29 30	N.Y. 1, 2 4, 5, 6 8, 9, 10 11, 12, 13 15, 16 17, 18, 19, 20 22, 23, 24 25, 26, 27 28, 29, 30	@ Min. @ T.B. Sea. Bos. @ N.Y. Oak. L.A. @ Phi. @ Bos.	1, 2, 3 5, 6 7, 8, 9, 10 11, 12, 13 15, 16, 17 19, 20 21, 22, 23, 24 25, 26, 27 29, 30	@ Det. N.Y. Bal. @ T.B. Wash. Atl. @ L.A. @ Hou. Det.	1, 2 3, 4 6, 7, 8 10, 11 12, 13, 14, 15 20, 21, 22 23, 24, 25 27, 28, 29 30, 31	Det. N.Y. N.Y. @ Atl. @ Bos. Bal. Min. @ Chi. @ Oak	1 2, 3, 4, 5 7, 8, 9 10, 11, 12 13, 14, 15, 16 17, 18, 19 20, 21, 22 24, 25, 26 27, 28, 29 31	@ Oak. @ Sea. Bos. T.B. @ K.C. @ N.Y. Bal. Phi. @ Bal. @ Mia.	1, 2 3, 4, 5 6, 7, 8, 9 11, 12, 13 14, 15, 16 17, 18, 19 20, 21, 22, 23 24, 25, 26 28, 29, 30 @ Mia.

Boldface indicates interleague games. All-Star Game is on July 17 in Washington, D.C.

CHRIS ARCHER



40-MAN ROSTER

Major-league roster on Feb. 4 • Uniform numbers subject to change

Manager: Kevin Cash (16)

Coaches: Hitting—Chad Mottola (51), Pitching—Kyle Snyder (44), 1B—Ozzie Timmons (30), 3B—Matt Quattraro (33), Bench—Charlie Montoyo (25), Bullpen—Stan Boroski (41)

NO.	PITCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
46	Jose Alvarado	L/R	6'2"	245	5/21/95
35	Matt Andriese	R/R	6'2"	225	8/28/89
22	Chris Archer	R/R	6'2"	195	9/26/88
63	Diego Castillo	R/R	6'3"	240	1/18/94
64	Yonny Chirinos	R/R	6'2"	170	12/26/93
37	Alex Colome	R/R	6'1"	220	12/31/88
87	Jose De Leon	R/R	6'1"	220	8/7/92
24	Nathan Eovaldi	R/R	6'2"	225	2/13/90
34	Jake Faria	R/R	6'4"	235	7/30/93
59	Brent Honeywell	R/R	6'2"	180	3/31/95
58	Chih-Wei Hu	R/R	6'0"	220	11/4/93
43	Dan Jennings	L/L	6'3"	210	4/17/87
36	Andrew Kittredge	R/R	6'1"	200	3/17/90
65	Jose Mujica	R/R	6'2"	235	6/29/96
23	Jake Odorizzi	R/R	6'2"	190	3/27/90
50	Austin Pruitt	R/R	5'10"	180	8/31/89
52	Chaz Roe	R/R	6'5"	190	10/9/86
57	Jaime Schultz	R/R	5'10"	200	6/20/91
4	Blake Snell	L/L	6'4"	200	12/4/92
59	Ryne Stanek	R/R	6'4"	215	7/26/91
61	Hunter Wood	R/R	6'1"	165	8/12/93
48	Ryan Yarbrough	R/L	6'5"	205	12/31/91

NO.	CATCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
40	Wilson Ramos	R/R	6'1"	260	8/10/87
45	Jesus Sucre	R/R	6'0"	200	4/30/88

NO.	INFELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
27	Willy Adames	R/R	6'0"	200	9/2/95
21	Christian Arroyo	R/R	6'1"	180	5/30/95
5	Matt Duffy	R/R	6'2"	170	1/15/91
11	Adeiny Hechavarria	R/R	6'0"	195	4/15/89
7	Micah Johnson	R/R	6'0"	210	12/18/90
13	Brad Miller	L/R	6'2"	215	10/18/89
29	Daniel Robertson	R/R	5'11"	200	3/22/94
14	Ryan Schimpf	L/R	5'9"	180	4/11/88
18	Joey Wendle	L/R	6'1"	190	4/26/90

NO.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
70	Jake Bauers	L/L	6'1"	195	10/6/95
10	Corey Dickerson	L/R	6'1"	200	5/22/89
39	Kevin Kiermaier	L/R	6'1"	215	4/22/90
0	Mallex Smith	L/R	5'10"	180	5/6/93
20	Steven Souza Jr.	R/R	6'4"	225	4/24/89
2	Denard Span	L/L	6'0"	210	2/27/84
71	Justin Williams	L/R	6'2"	215	8/20/95

(AP Photo/Jeff Roberson)

4. TAMPA BAY RAYS

Evan Longoria, the greatest player in the franchise's history, is in a Giants uniform now, traded in the off-season.

The worst attendance in the majors led to payroll cuts and a rebuild for a Rays team that's never really out of a rebuild. They do have six players on *Baseball America's* Top 100 prospects list, led by righty Brent Honeywell at No. 14. And the major-league team isn't exactly a dumpster fire.

Chris Archer, Jake Odorizzi, Blake Snell and Nate Eovaldi offer the potential for an intriguing rotation. Denard Span, Kevin Kiermaier in center, Steven Souza Jr. in right and Corey Dickerson at DH make for a possible top-four in the lineup. Both Souza and Dickerson had an OPS above .800 in 2017, and Kiermaier wasn't far off, at .788.

"It's got a chance to be a really special group," manager Kevin Cash said at the winter meetings. The skipper is also optimistic about Matt Duffy's return from Achilles surgery and having defensive whiz Adeiny Hechavarria at short all year following his midseason acquisition in 2017. And catcher Wilson Ramos should rebound after missing the first half following knee surgery.

"I was really excited the way he finished," noted Cash. "Had some ups and downs early on ... He got in that comfort zone there with about three weeks to play, and we saw how big of an impact he can be in our lineup. So up-the-middle defense is special and we feel we're very strong."

The Rays are progressive in their bullpen usage—arguably, at points, they went to the bullpen too quickly—but the overall usage pattern is likely to continue.

Alex Colome, entering his age-29 season, is a rock at the back of the bullpen, although his strikeout rate dipped from 11.3 per nine innings in 2016 to 7.8 in 2017. A host of kids, some still in the farm system, will vie for the middle innings, which Cash deems equally critical.

"Everybody looks or talks about the eighth and ninth innings. We have said it for a long time now, there are a lot of games that are won in the fifth through the seventh," he said. **BD**

2018 SCHEDULE

MARCH	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
29, 30, 31 APRIL	1, 2 4, 5, 6 8, 9	1, 2, 3 5, 6 7, 8, 9, 10 11, 12, 13 14, 15, 16, 17	1 2, 3, 4 6, 7, 8 9, 10, 11 12, 13, 14, 15 20, 21, 22 23, 24, 25 26, 27, 28, 29 31	1, 2 3, 4, 5 7, 8, 9 10, 11, 12 14, 15, 16 17, 18, 19 20, 21, 22, 23 24, 25, 26 28, 29 31	1, 2 3, 4, 5 7, 8, 9 10, 11, 12 14, 15, 16 17, 18, 19 20, 21, 22, 23 24, 25, 26, 27 28, 29, 30 @ Cle. @ Tor. Bal. Cle. Oak. @ Tex. @ Tor. N.Y. Tor.
Bos. Bos. @ N.Y. @ Bos. @ Chi. Phi. Tex. Min. @ Bal. @ Bos. @ Det.	@ Det. Tor. Atl. @ Bal. @ K.C. @ L.A. Bos. Bal. @ Oak.	@ Sea. @ Wash. Sea. Tor. @ N.Y. @ Hou. N.Y. Wash. Hou.	Hou. @ Mia. @ N.Y. Det. @ Min. @ Mia. N.Y. @ Bal. L.A.	L.A. Chi. Bal. @ Tor. @ N.Y. @ Bos. K.C. Bos. @ Atl. @ Cle.	

Boldface indicates interleague games. All-Star Game is on July 17 in Washington, D.C.

MANNY MACHADO

40-MAN ROSTER

Major-league roster on Feb. 4 • Uniform numbers subject to change

Manager: Buck Showalter (26)

Coaches: Hitting—Scott Coolbaugh (47), Howie Clark (88), Pitching—Roger McDowell (40), 1B—Wayne Kirby (21), 3B—Bobby Dickerson (11), Bench—John Russell (77), Bullpen—Alan Mills (75), Coach—Einar Diaz (55)

NO.	PITCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
75	Pedro Araujo	R/R	6'3"	214	7/2/93
51	Alec Asher	R/R	6'4"	230	10/4/91
48	Richard Bleier	L/L	6'3"	215	4/16/87
35	Brad Brach	R/R	6'6"	215	4/12/86
53	Zach Britton	L/L	6'3"	195	12/22/87
37	Dylan Bundy	S/R	6'1"	200	11/15/92
50	Miguel Castro	R/R	6'7"	205	12/24/94
73	Nestor Cortes	R/L	5'11"	205	12/10/94
43	Stefan Crichton	R/R	6'3"	200	2/29/92
34	Kevin Gausman	L/R	6'3"	190	1/6/91
60	Mychal Givens	R/R	6'0"	210	5/13/90
57	Donnie Hart	L/L	5'11"	180	9/6/90
39	Hunter Harvey	R/R	6'3"	175	12/9/94
41	David Hess	R/R	6'2"	180	7/10/93
71	Michael Kelly	R/R	6'4"	185	9/6/92
62	Chris Lee	L/L	6'3"	180	8/17/92
65	Jesus Liranzo	R/R	6'2"	175	3/7/95
74	Jose Mesa	R/R	6'4"	230	8/13/93
56	Darren O'Day	R/R	6'4"	220	10/22/82
32	Yefry Ramirez	R/R	6'2"	215	11/28/93
66	Tanner Scott	R/L	6'2"	220	7/22/94
59	Miike Wright	R/R	6'6"	215	1/3/90
54	Jimmy Yacabonis	R/R	6'3"	205	3/21/92
49	Gabriel Ynoa	R/R	6'2"	205	5/26/93

NO.	CATCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
36	Caleb Joseph	R/R	6'3"	180	6/18/86
15	Chance Sisco	L/R	6'2"	195	2/24/95
29	Austin Wynns	R/R	6'2"	205	12/10/90

NO.	INFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
1	Tim Beckham	R/R	6'1"	205	1/27/90
19	Chris Davis	L/R	6'3"	230	3/17/86
13	Manny Machado	R/R	6'3"	185	7/6/92
6	Jonathan Schoop	R/R	6'1"	225	10/16/91
12	Engelb Vielma	S/R	5'11"	155	6/22/94

NO.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
38	Jaycob Brugman	L/L	6'0"	195	1/18/92
18	Austin Hays	R/R	6'1"	195	7/5/95
10	Adam Jones	R/R	6'2"	215	8/1/85
16	Trey Mancini	R/R	6'4"	215	3/18/92
23	Joey Rickard	R/L	6'1"	185	5/21/91
25	Anthony Santander	S/R	6'2"	190	10/19/94
45	Mark Trumbo	R/R	6'4"	225	1/16/86

(AP Photo/Mike Carlson)



5. BALTIMORE ORIOLES

To Orioles manager Buck Showalter, the Yankees' addition of Giancarlo Stanton was just another example of the stratification of the division.

"It's not the first time that teams with that kind of economic power have done that," Showalter said. "We've just got to stay on task and on message and know who we are and who we're not."

It's reasonable messaging to a fan base that's preparing for the departure of Manny Machado, a free agent after the 2018 season. But messaging probably won't make up for the gap in talent between the Red Sox, Yanks and everyone else in the division. The O's could finish ahead of the Rays, but the Rays' approach to constantly restock the roster is more forward-thinking. They had the conviction to move on by dealing Longoria.

The Orioles may be clinging to the past with little gain in the present and little to look forward to in the future. The contracts of both general manager Dan Duquette and Showalter are set to expire after 2018.

A ruptured right Achilles tendon for elite closer Zach Britton during an offseason workout was a hard pill to swallow. He's a soon-to-be free agent like Machado, and moving Machado still may make the most sense come the deadline.

"What this really comes down to is whether the team has any coherent plan for the next several seasons, since it appears that Duquette—in his last guaranteed year as executive vice president—is simply rounding up the usual suspects and heading into 2018 with the same approach he has employed throughout his Orioles tenure," *Baltimore Sun*

columnist Peter Schmuck wrote in January.

Jonathan Schoop, the 26-year-old second baseman, is a bright spot coming off a season in which he hit .293 with 32 home runs. Elder statesman Adam Jones is still in the fold, but one wonders for how long.

Ultimately, the Orioles' biggest question has been the same for years: can the starting pitching straighten out? Can Kevin Gausman and Dylan Bundy post sub-four ERAs?

"Pitcher is on top of their game, the pitcher wins," Showalter said. "You don't believe me, watch the playoffs. The teams that were playing in October had the best pitching staffs." **BD**

2018 SCHEDULE

MARCH	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
29, 31 Min.	1, 2, 3 @ L.A. 4, 5, 6 @ Oak.	1, 2, 3 N.Y. 5, 6 @ N.Y.	1 L.A. 3, 4 @ Phi.	1 @ N.Y. 2, 3, 4, 5 @ Tex.	1, 2 @ K.C. 3, 4, 5 @ Sea.
APRIL 1 Min. 2, 3, 4 @ Hou. 5, 6, 7, 8 @ N.Y.	8, 9, 10 K.C. 11, 12, 13 T.B. 15, 16 Phi. 18, 19, 20 @ Bos.	7, 8, 9, 10 @ Tor. 11, 12, 13 Bos. 15, 16, 17 Mia. 19, 20, 21 @ Wash.	5, 6, 7, 8 9, 10, 11 N.Y. 13, 14, 15 Tex. 20, 21, 22 @ Tor.	7, 8, 9 @ T.B. 10, 11, 12 Bos. 14, 15 N.Y. 17, 18, 19 @ Cle.	7, 8, 9 @ T.B. 11, 12, 13 Oak. 14, 15, 16 Chi. 17, 18, 19 Tor.
9, 10, 11 Tor. 13, 14, 15, 16 @ Bos. 17, 18, 19 @ Det.	21, 22, 23, 24 @ Chi. 25, 26, 27 @ T.B. 28, 29, 30 Wash. 31 N.Y.	22, 23, 24 @ Atl. 25, 26, 27, 28 Sea. 29, 30 L.A.	23, 24, 25 Bos. 26, 27, 28, 29 T.B. 31 @ N.Y.	20, 21, 22 @ Tor. 24, 25, 26 N.Y. 27, 28, 29 Tor. @ K.C.	21, 22, 23 @ N.Y. 24, 25, 26 @ Bos. 27, 28, 29, 30 Hou.

Boldface indicates interleague games. All-Star Game is on July 17 in Washington, D.C.

BASEBALL QUICK QUIZ

ANSWERS ON PAGE 70

Collect 10 points for each question answered correctly. (If you score 80 or better, you're a Hall of Famer; 70 or better, MVP; between 60 and 70, All-Star; and 40 to 60, a minor leaguer.)

1 From 1974 through 2017, five MLB pitchers have won 25 or more games in a season. Collect two points for each of these hurlers you can identify.

MAX SCHERZER

2 Max Scherzer is one of three pitchers in MLB history to fan 250 or more batters in a season in both leagues. He struck out 252 batters in 2014 for the Tigers in the A.L. and has surpassed 250 strikeouts in each of the last three seasons with the Nationals in the N.L. For 10 points, who are the other three pitchers to have a 250-strikeout season in both leagues?

3 Since 1969, when the save rule became an official statistic, three pitchers have had 15 or more wins and 15-plus saves in the same season. Name any one of these three pitchers to collect 10 points.

4 Who holds the single-season mark for most home runs in his home ballpark with 39: Mark McGwire, Barry Bonds, Hank Greenberg or Babe Ruth?

5 Entering the 2018 season, which active pitcher has the most complete games with 38: CC Sabathia, Justin Verlander, Clayton Kershaw or James Shields?

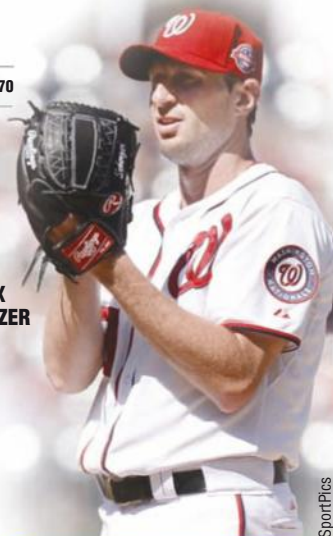
6 Albert Pujols is 32 hits away from 3,000 and should become the sixth player with career totals of 3,000 hits and 500 homers. Collect two points for each of the five players with 3,000 or more hits and 500-plus homers you can identify.

7 Since 1931, eight pitchers have won a league MVP award and been elected to the Hall of Fame. Collect 10 points if you can name four of these eight pitchers.

8 Which pitcher holds the record for the most Opening Day victories with nine: Tom Seaver, Grover Alexander, Jack Morris or Walter Johnson?

9 From 1980 through 1991, Rickey Henderson led the A.L. in stolen bases each year except 1987. Who topped the junior circuit with 60 stolen bases in 1987: Willie Wilson, Harold Reynolds, Hal McRae or Kenny Lofton?

10 A major-league player hasn't had a 30-homer/30-steal season since Mike Trout and Ryan Braun in 2012. Last season nine players had a 20-homer/20-steal season. Collect 10 points if you can identify four of these nine players.



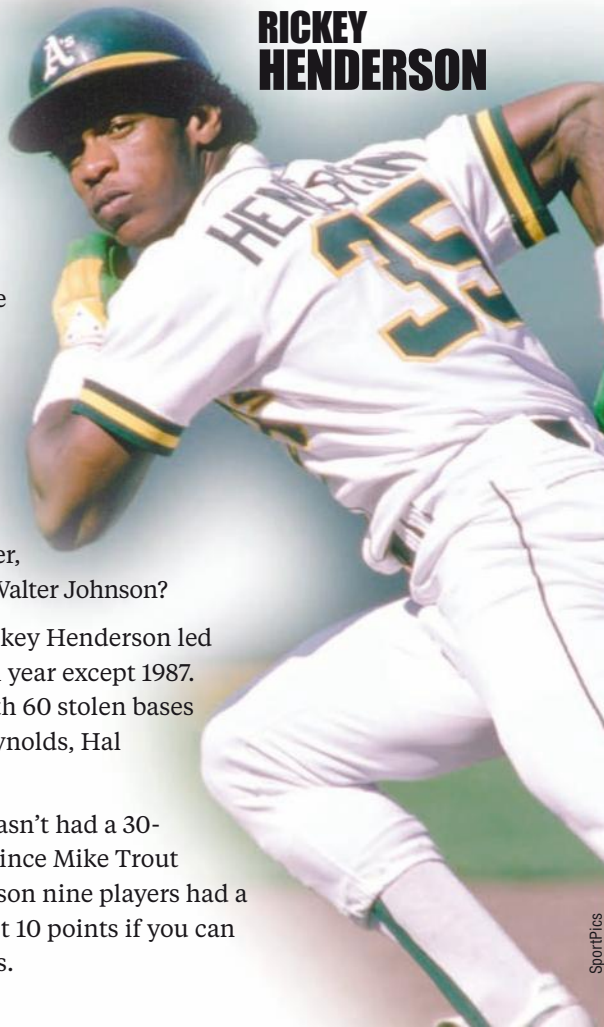
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(AP Photo)

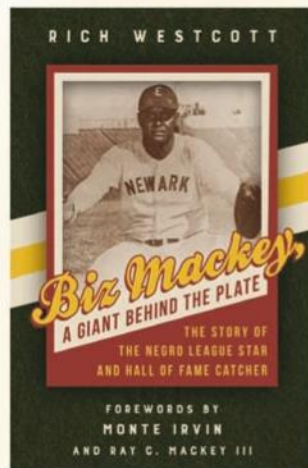
BABE RUTH

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1922 E120 American Caramel (240).....	\$30.95	1950 Bowman (252).....	\$62.95
1933 Goudey (240).....	\$37.95	1951 Bowman (324).....	\$83.95
1934 Goudey (96).....	\$36.95	1952 Topps Reprint (402) (Opened).....	\$312.95
1938 Goudey (48).....	\$16.95	1953 Bowman Color (160).....	\$58.95
1939 Play Ball Set (161).....	\$35.95	1953 Topps (330).....	\$96.95
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NATIONAL LEAGUE WEST

ROOKIES TO WATCH



ALEX VERDUGO

Alex Verdugo, Dodgers, OF

Verdugo turned 21 during the 2017 season, when he hit .314/.389/.436 against Triple-A pitching. His pitch recognition and plate discipline produced more walks (52) than strikeouts, though his left-handed stroke is not conducive to generating power numbers. Although he homered just six times in the hitter-friendly Pacific Coast League, he has the size to pop more home runs and powered 13 at Double-A Tulsa in 2016. If there's a weak spot in the potent Dodgers lineup, it's left field, and Verdugo could make his case for the job as soon as this spring.



RBI LEADER

Over the last three seasons, Nolan Arenado of the Rockies leads all major-league hitters with 393 RBI. Only seven other players have 300 or more RBI since 2015.

PLAYER, TEAM

PLAYER, TEAM	R
Nolan Arenado, Rockies	393
Edwin Encarnacion, Tor./Cle.	345
Paul Goldschmidt, D-backs	325
Anthony Rizzo, Cubs	319
Nelson Cruz, Mariners	317
Albert Pujols, Angels	315
Jose Abreu, White Sox	303
Josh Donaldson, Blue Jays	300



PAUL GOLDSCHMIDT

Ryan McMahon, Rockies, 1B

Drafted as a third baseman, McMahon spent more time at first and second base last season with Nolan Arenado lodged at third for the Rockies. The defensive change didn't slow McMahon's bat. The left-handed batter hit .355/.403/.583 with 39 doubles and 20 homers in 119 games between Double-A Hartford and Triple-A Albuquerque. If Mark Reynolds isn't re-signed, McMahon should see playing time at first. If Reynolds or another veteran is brought in to play first, McMahon could serve as a productive utilityman.

Tyler Beede, Giants, RHP

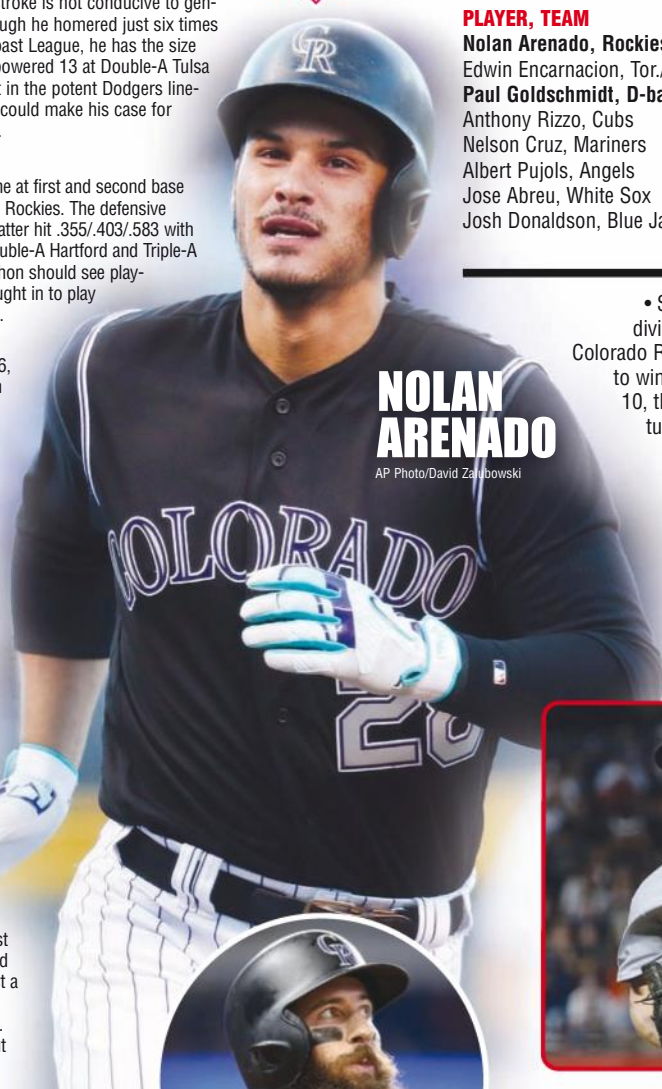
After a strong season with Double-A Richmond in 2016, Beede, the Giants' top pitching prospect, went 6-7 with a 4.79 ERA and 1.47 WHIP in 19 starts for Triple-A Sacramento last season. A groin injury sidetracked his progress, and after the season, Beede confessed that he was mentally distracted by being so close to a call-up that didn't happen. With a mid-90s fastball and solid complementary offerings, Beede competes for a rotation spot in San Francisco this spring.

Joey Lucchesi, Padres, LHP

The Padres rotation is unsettled, and a trio of pitchers who impressed at Double-A San Antonio last season could emerge in 2018. The 24-year-old Lucchesi was the most successful of the three, going 5-3 with a 1.79 ERA and a save in nine starts and a relief appearance following a midseason promotion. He works with a low-90s fastball and advanced offspeed pitches, which he throws with a funky delivery that enhances his effectiveness. His San Antonio teammates, RHPs Cal Quantrill and Eric Lauer, also could audition this season.

Walker Buehler, Dodgers, RHP

In 2015, the Dodgers drafted Buehler in the first round despite an elbow issue, which soon required Tommy John surgery. The Vanderbilt product returned in 2016 to throw 10 hitless innings in the low minors before breaking out last season. The 23-year-old still had his mid-90s heat and impressive secondary pitches, calling on them to post a 3.35 ERA with 125 strikeouts in 88.2 innings at three minor-league levels, including Triple-A Oklahoma City. He made eight relief appearances for the Dodgers, but should soon get a look in the Dodgers rotation.



NOLAN ARENADO

AP Photo/David Zalubowski

- Since the National League went to three divisions (East, West, Central) in 1994, the Colorado Rockies are the only N.L. West team not to win a division title. The Dodgers have won 10, the Giants and Diamondbacks have captured five, and the Padres have won four.

- Over the last seven seasons (2011-2017), Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw has captured five ERA titles and three strikeout crowns, and has led the N.L. in wins three times. During that span, his totals are 118 wins, 41 losses, a 2.10 ERA, 14 shutouts and 1,623 strikeouts in 1,452 innings.



CLAYTON KERSHAW

AP Photo/Jeff Chiu

DID YOU KNOW . . . last season Charlie Blackmon of the Rockies became only the 15th player in MLB history to record 210 or more hits, 135-plus runs, 30 or more doubles and home runs in the same season? The other players to reach these totals are Ellis Burks, Joe DiMaggio, Jimmie Foxx, Lou Gehrig, Todd Helton, Babe Herman, Rogers Hornsby, Chuck Klein, Stan Musial, Lefty O'Doul, Albert Pujols, Alex Rodriguez, Jimmy Rollins and Al Simmons.



CHARLIE BLACKMON

AP Photo/Wilfredo Lee

DID YOU KNOW . . . Steve Finley and Matt Herges are the only players in MLB history to play for all five N.L. West franchises? Finley played for the Padres from 1995 through 1998, and for the Diamondbacks (1999-2004), Dodgers (2004), Giants (2006) and Rockies (2007). Herges also pitched for the Dodgers (1999-2001), Padres (2003), Giants (2003-2005), Diamondbacks (2005) and Rockies (2007-2009).

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS

World Series Titles: 1
Pennants: 1
Division Titles: 5
Wins: 1,596
Losses: 1,644
100-W Seasons: 1
100-L Seasons: 1



LUIS GONZALEZ

COLORADO ROCKIES

World Series Titles: 0
Pennants: 1
Division Titles: 0
Wins: 1,871
Losses: 2,117
100-W Seasons: 0
100-L Seasons: 0



TODD HELTON

LOS ANGELES DODGERS

World Series Titles: 6
Pennants: 19
Division Titles: 16
Wins: 10,776
Losses: 9,691
100-W Seasons: 7
100-L Seasons: 2



DUKE SNIDER

SAN DIEGO PADRES

World Series Titles: 0
Pennants: 2
Division Titles: 5
Wins: 3,611
Losses: 4,201
100-W Seasons: 0
100-L Seasons: 5



TONY GWYNN

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS

World Series Titles: 8
Pennants: 20
Division Titles: 8
Wins: 11,015
Losses: 9,513
100-W Seasons: 7
100-L Seasons: 1



WILLIE MAYS

FRANCHISE LEADERS

HR: Luis Gonzalez (224)
H: Luis Gonzalez (1,337)
RBI: Luis Gonzalez (774)
W: Randy Johnson (118)
SO: Randy Johnson (2,077)
Svs: Jose Valverde (98)

FRANCHISE LEADERS

HR: Todd Helton (369)
H: Todd Helton (2,519)
RBI: Todd Helton (1,406)
W: Jorge De La Rosa (86)
SO: Jorge De La Rosa (985)
Svs: Brian Fuentes (115)

FRANCHISE LEADERS

HR: Duke Snider (389)
H: Zack Wheat (2,804)
RBI: Duke Snider (1,271)
W: Don Sutton (233)
SO: Don Sutton (2,696)
Svs: Kenley Jansen (230)

FRANCHISE LEADERS

HR: Nate Colbert (163)
H: Tony Gwynn (3,141)
RBI: Tony Gwynn (1,138)
W: Eric Show (100)
SO: Jake Peavy (1,348)
Svs: Trevor Hoffman (552)

FRANCHISE LEADERS

HR: Willie Mays (646)
H: Willie Mays (3,187)
RBI: Mel Ott (1,860)
W: Christy Mathewson (372)
SO: Christy Mathewson (2,504)
Svs: Robb Nen (206)

AP Photo/Winslow Townson

AP Photo/David Zalubowski

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AP Photo/Doug Mills

David Durochik/SportPics

NATIONAL LEAGUE

WEST DIVISION PREVIEW

By **Bill Plunkett**, *Orange County Register*

By one measure, the National League West was the best division in baseball last season. Three of the five teams won at least 87 games and qualified for the playoffs—the Los Angeles Dodgers, Arizona Diamondbacks and Colorado Rockies.

But in reality, the N.L. West has become baseball's least competitive division. The Dodgers won the division by a wide margin for the fifth consecutive season. They are the

games or fewer) and some teams were taking the long view (i.e. tanking), the Diamondbacks and Rockies were the best of a limited middle class.

It's hard to see them—or the stripped-down-to-rebuild San Diego Padres and should-be-stripped-down San Francisco Giants—seriously threatening the Dodgers' reign in 2018.

The Dodgers return nearly their entire World Series roster

The Dodgers remain the team to beat with the Rockies and Diamondbacks trying to close the gap and return to postseason contention



**CLAYTON
KERSHAW**

(AP Photo/Jeff Chiu)

first team to lead the N.L. West five years in a row, and are only the sixth team since divisional play began in 1969 to dominate their division for five consecutive years, joining the A.L. West Oakland A's (1971-75), N.L. East Atlanta Braves (1995-2005), A.L. Central Cleveland Indians (1995-99), A.L. East New York Yankees (1998-2006), and N.L. East Philadelphia Phillies (2007-11)

The Diamondbacks and Rockies can be proud of ending mini-droughts by making the playoffs for the first time since 2011 and 2009, respectively. But their achievements come with a warning—someone had to claim the National League's two wild-card spots. In a year when mediocrity (or worse) was rampant in the N.L. (seven teams won 75

with Game 7 starter Yu Darvish the only significant departure—and he was a major disappointment in that series. A strong farm system has sent the past two N.L. Rookies of the Year (Corey Seager and Cody Bellinger) to Los Angeles with more blue-chippers lined up behind them.

Plus, the Dodgers put their financial house in order this past winter, shedding deadwood from the payroll in such quantities that their payroll will dip below the competitive-balance tax threshold for the first time in five years—just in time to be major players in next year's free-agent market, when a bumper crop of elite talent could be available.

It is not a formula that sets the N.L. West up for regime change any time in the immediate future. **BD**

COREY SEAGER



1. LOS ANGELES DODGERS

After reaching the World Series for the first time in 29 years only to lose to the Houston Astros in seven games, the Dodgers' winter was also defined by what they didn't do.

They didn't sign Shohei Ohtani, their best creative efforts failing to overcome the National League's lack of the designated hitter.

And they didn't trade for Giancarlo Stanton, declining to blow up their previously super-sized payroll to add the N.L.'s 2017 Most Valuable Player despite the SoCal native's professed desire to return home.

The club's most significant move of the winter involved subtraction, not addition. Their salary swap with the Atlanta Braves allowed them to shed three veteran players—Adrian Gonzalez, Brandon McCarthy and Scott Kazmir—whose contracts had become burdensome and their potential contributions unlikely or unnecessary.

The result (aided by the expiration of other dead money) is a payroll that will dip below \$200 million and the luxury tax threshold for the first time since Guggenheim Partners bought the team in 2012.

The mandate to become more financially sustainable was met by president of baseball operations Andrew Friedman without sacrificing anything important on the field. The roster that won an MLB-high 104 games and the franchise's first N.L. pennant since 1988 returns largely intact. Seager

40-MAN ROSTER

Major-league roster on Feb. 4 • Uniform numbers subject to change

Manager: Dave Roberts (30)

Coaches: Hitting—Turner Ward (12), Brant Brown (37), Luis Ortiz (28), Pitching—Rick Honeycutt (40), 1B—George Lombard (27), 3B—Chris Woodward (45), Bench—Bob Geren (8), Bullpen—Mark Prior (23)

NO.	PITCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
75	Scott Alexander	L/L	6'2"	190	7/10/89
52	Pedro Baez	R/R	6'0"	230	3/11/88
71	Dylan Baker	R/R	6-2	205	4/6/92
64	Walker Buehler	R/R	6'2"	175	7/28/94
54	Tony Cingrani	L/L	6'4"	214	7/5/89
46	Josh Fields	R/R	6'0"	195	8/19/85
62	Wilmer Font	R/R	6'4"	265	5/24/90
63	Yimi Garcia	R/R	6'1"	220	8/18/90
44	Rich Hill	L/L	6'5"	220	3/11/80
74	Kenley Jansen	S/R	6'5"	275	9/30/87
22	Clayton Kershaw	L/L	6'4"	228	3/19/88
55	Tom Koehler	R/R	6'3"	235	6/29/86
36	Adam Liberatore	L/L	6'3"	243	5/12/87
18	Kenta Maeda	R/R	6'1"	175	4/11/88
59	Henry Owens	L/L	6'6"	220	7/21/92
58	Edward Paredes	L/L	6'0"	180	9/30/86
99	Hyun-Jin Ryu	R/L	6'3"	250	3/25/87
77	Dennis Santana	R/R	6'2"	160	4/12/96
48	Brock Stewart	L/R	6'3"	210	10/3/91
68	Ross Stripling	R/R	6'3"	210	11/23/89
7	Julio Urias	L/L	6'0"	215	8/12/96
57	Alex Wood	R/L	6'4"	215	1/12/91

NO.	CATCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
15	Austin Barnes	R/R	5'10"	190	12/28/89
65	Kyle Farmer	R/R	6'0"	214	8/17/90
9	Yasmani Grandal	S/R	6'1"	235	11/8/88

NO.	INFELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
35	Cody Bellinger	L/L	6'4"	210	7/13/95
11	Logan Forsythe	R/R	6'1"	205	1/14/87
70	Tim Lincecum	R/R	6'1"	200	7/14/92
5	Corey Seager	L/R	6'4"	220	4/27/94
25	Rob Segedin	R/R	6'2"	220	11/10/88
10	Justin Turner	R/R	5'11"	205	11/23/84

NO.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
14	Enrique Hernandez	R/R	5'11"	200	8/24/91
27	Matt Kemp	R/R	6'4"	210	9/23/84
31	Joc Pederson	L/L	6'1"	220	4/21/92
66	Yasiel Puig	R/R	6'2"	240	12/7/90
3	Chris Taylor	R/R	6'1"	195	8/29/90
47	Trayce Thompson	R/R	6'3"	217	3/15/91
60	Andrew Toles	L/R	5'9"	192	5/24/92
61	Alex Verdugo	L/L	6'0"	205	5/15/96

(AP Photo/Matt Stocum)

and Bellinger represent the new faces of the Dodgers, but there are plenty of the old faces still in place, including staff ace Clayton Kershaw, the N.L.'s best closer, Kenley Jansen, and All-Star third baseman Justin Turner. Chris Taylor and Yasiel Puig represented feel-good stories of rebirth last year—in two very different ways—and return to prominent places in the 2018 plan.

The bullpen behind Jansen needs its annual rebuild. But the depth of talent on the Dodgers roster remains the best in the National League with baseball's top pitching prospect, Walker Buehler, the next future star in line for a big-league breakthrough. **BD**

2018 SCHEDULE

MARCH

29, 30, 31 S.F.
APRIL
 1 S.F.
 2, 3, 4 @ Ari.
 6, 7, 8 @ S.F.
10, 11 Oak.
 13, 14, 15 Ari.
 16, 17, 18 @ S.D.
 20, 21, 22 Wash.
 23, 24, 25 Mia.
 27, 28, 29 @ S.F.
 30 @ Ari.

MAY

1, 2, 3 @ Ari.
 4, 5, 6 @ S.D.
 8, 9 Ari.
 10, 11, 12, 13 S.D.
 15, 16, 17 @ Mia.
 18, 19, 20 @ Wash.
 21, 22, 23 Col.
 25, 26, 27 S.D.
 28, 29, 30, 31 Phi.

JUNE

1, 2, 3 @ Col.
 5, 6, 7 @ Pit.
 8, 9, 10 Atl.
12, 13 Tex.
 15, 16, 17 S.F.
 18, 19, 20 @ Chi.
 22, 23, 24 @ N.Y.
 25, 26, 27, 28 Chi.
 29, 30 Col.

JULY

1 Col.
 2, 3, 4 Pit.
6, 7, 8 @ L.A.
 9, 10, 11, 12 @ S.D.
13, 14, 15 L.A.
 20, 21, 22 @ Mil.
 23, 24, 25 @ Phi.
 26, 27, 28, 29 @ Atl.
 30, 31 Mil.

AUGUST

1, 2 Mil.
3, 4, 5 Hou.
7, 8 @ Oak.
 9, 10, 11, 12 @ Col.
 13, 14, 15 S.F.
17, 18, 19 @ Sea.
 20, 21, 22 St.L.
 24, 25, 26 S.D.
28, 29 @ Tex.
 30, 31 Ari.

SEPTEMBER

1, 2 Ari.
 3, 4, 5 N.Y.
 7, 8, 9 @ Col.
 10, 11, 12 @ Cin.
 13, 14, 15, 16 @ St.L.
 17, 18, 19 Col.
 21, 22, 23 S.D.
 24, 25, 26 @ Ari.
 28, 29, 30 @ S.F.

Boldface indicates interleague games. All-Star Game is on July 17 in Washington, D.C.

**CHARLIE
BLACKMON**

40-MAN ROSTER

Major-league roster on Feb. 4 • Uniform numbers subject to change

Manager: Bud Black (10)

Coaches: Hitting—Duane Espy (58), Jeff Salazar (41), Pitching—Steve Foster (56), 1B—Tony Diaz (43), 3B—Stu Cole (39), Bench—Mike Redmond (11), Bullpen—Darren Holmes (40), Coach—Ronnie Gideon (53)

NO.	PITCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
62	Yency Almonte	S/R	6'3"	205	6/4/94
44	Tyler Anderson	L/L	6'4"	210	12/30/89
35	Chad Bettis	R/R	6'1"	200	4/26/89
71	Wade Davis	R/R	6'5"	225	9/7/85
47	Jairo Diaz	R/R	6'0"	200	5/27/91
38	Mike Dunn	L/L	6'0"	215	5/23/85
54	Carlos Estevez	R/R	6'4"	210	12/28/92
31	Kyle Freeland	L/L	6'3"	170	5/14/93
64	Rayan Gonzalez	R/R	6'3"	175	10/18/90
55	Jon Gray	R/R	6'4"	235	11/5/91
34	Jeff Hoffman	R/R	6'5"	225	1/8/93
61	Sam Howard	R/L	6'3"	170	3/5/93
46	Zach Jermiola	L/R	6'3"	200	4/6/94
48	German Marquez	R/R	6'1"	185	2/22/95
51	Jake McGee	L/L	6'3"	230	8/6/86
45	Scott Oberg	R/R	6'2"	205	3/13/90
0	Adam Ottavino	S/R	6'5"	220	11/22/85
60	Zac Rosscup	R/L	6'2"	220	6/9/88
52	Chris Rusin	L/L	6'2"	195	10/22/86
49	Antonio Senzatela	R/R	6'1"	180	1/21/95
29	Bryan Shaw	S/R	6'1"	220	11/8/87
74	Jesus Tinoco	R/R	6'4"	190	4/30/95
NO.	CATCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
22	Chris Iannetta	R/R	6'0"	230	4/8/83
23	Tom Murphy	R/R	6'1"	220	4/3/91
37	Chris Rabago	R/R	5'11"	185	4/22/93
14	Tony Wolters	L/R	5'10"	200	6/9/92
NO.	INFELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
28	Nolan Arenado	R/R	6'2"	205	4/16/91
9	DJ LeMahieu	R/R	6'4"	215	7/13/88
24	Ryan McMahon	L/R	6'2"	185	12/14/94
25	Jordan Patterson	L/L	6'4"	215	2/12/92
27	Trevor Story	R/R	6'1"	210	11/15/92
4	Pat Valaika	R/R	5'11"	200	9/9/92
NO.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
19	Charlie Blackmon	L/L	6'3"	210	7/1/86
56	Noel Cuevas	R/R	6'2"	210	10/2/91
26	David Dahl	L/R	6'2"	195	4/1/94
72	Yonathan Daza	R/R	6'2"	190	2/28/94
20	Ian Desmond	R/R	6'3"	215	9/20/85
8	Gerardo Parra	L/L	5'11"	210	5/6/87
7	Raimel Tapia	L/L	6'2"	160	2/4/94
3	Mike Tauchman	L/L	6'2"	200	12/3/90

(AP Photo/John Bazemore)



2. COLORADO ROCKIES

The names have changed over the years but the annual mile-high challenge remains the same: can the Rockies ever find enough pitching to back their altitude-infused offense?

The imbalance was not as pronounced over the first half of the 2017 season. With first-year manager Bud Black handling a passel of young pitchers with care, the Rockies' pitching numbers were middle of the pack—a 4.45 staff ERA at the All-Star break ranked 16th in MLB.

Not coincidentally, the Rockies held onto first place in the N.L. West as late as June 20 and reached the break 13 games over .500. Coors Field took its toll in the second half, though, and the pitching numbers rose. Also, not coincidentally, the Rockies were a sub-.500 team (35-36) after the All-Star break, holding on to the N.L.'s second wild-card spot and bowing out in the postseason matchup with the Diamondbacks.

Four rookie pitchers—German Marquez, Kyle Freeland, Antonio Senzatela and Jeff Hoffman—started a combined 93 games for the Rockies last year. Second-year men Jon Gray and Tyler Anderson handled 35 more starts.

Older, wiser and (the Rockies hope) stronger, the foursome will be back in 2018. But general manager Jeff Bridich entered the arms race in great measure, spending \$106 million to sign former Cubs closer Wade Davis and Indians setup man Bryan Shaw, and re-sign their own setup man, Jake McGee. Davis' three-year, \$52-million deal makes him the new highest-paid reliever in MLB history (based on annual average salary). Add in holdovers Adam Ottavino and Mike Dunn, and the Rockies will be paying a hefty \$44.5 million to five relievers in 2018.

“The goal is to try and build a deep and reliable pen where

guys can play off each other,” Bridich said. “It doesn't have to be the same guy to where we feel like we are rolling out the same people night in and night out.”

Bridich might want to keep the checkbook handy. If the Rockies are going to keep their sturdy offense intact, it will take an even bigger investment in the near future—outfielder Charlie Blackmon (who won the Rockies' fourth N.L. batting title in the past five years last season) and second baseman DJ LeMahieu (the 2016 N.L. batting champ) can be part of that swollen free-agent class next winter. Plus, the best third baseman in the game, Nolan Arenado, is entering his final arbitration year. **BD**

2018 SCHEDULE

MARCH

29, 30, 31 @ Ari.
APRIL
 2, 3, 4, 5 @ S.D.
 6, 7, 8 Atl.
 9, 10, 11 S.D.
 12, 13, 14, 15 @ Wash.
 16, 17, 18 @ Pit.
 20, 21, 22 Chi.
 23, 24, 25 S.D.
 27, 28, 29 @ Mia.
 30 @ Chi.

MAY

1, 2 @ Chi.
 4, 5, 6 @ N.Y.
8, 9 L.A.
 10, 11, 12, 13 Mil.
 14, 15 @ S.D.
 17, 18, 19, 20 @ S.F.
 21, 22, 23 @ L.A.
 25, 26, 27 Cin.
 28, 29, 30 S.F.

JUNE

1, 2, 3 L.A.
 5, 6, 7 @ Cin.
 8, 9, 10 Ari.
 12, 13, 14 @ Phi.
15, 16, 17 @ Tex.
 18, 19, 20, 21 N.Y.
 22, 23, 24 Mia.
 26, 27, 28 @ S.F.
 29, 30 @ L.A.

JULY

1 @ L.A.
 2, 3, 4 S.F.
6, 7, 8 @ Sea.
 10, 11, 12 Ari.
13, 14, 15 Sea.
 20, 21, 22 @ Ari.
24, 25 Hou.
27, 28, 29 Oak.
 30, 31 @ St.L.

AUGUST

1, 2 @ St.L.
 3, 4, 5 @ Mil.
 6, 7, 8 Pit.
 9, 10, 11, 12 L.A.
14, 15 @ Hou.
 16, 17, 18, 19 @ Atl.
 21, 22, 23 S.D.
 24, 25, 26 St.L.
27, 28 @ L.A.
 30, 31 @ S.D.

SEPTEMBER

1, 2 @ S.D.
 3, 4, 5 S.F.
 7, 8, 9 L.A.
 10, 11, 12, 13 Ari.
 14, 15, 16 @ S.F.
 17, 18, 19 @ L.A.
 21, 22, 23 @ Ari.
 24, 25, 26, 27 Phi.
 28, 29, 30 Wash.

Boldface indicates interleague games. All-Star Game is on July 17 in Washington, D.C.



ZACK GREINKE



3. ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS

If any team was a thorn in the Dodgers' side last season, it was the Diamondbacks.

Beyond the 24-win improvement that earned first-year manager Torey Lovullo the National League Manager of the Year Award, the Diamondbacks won the season series against L.A. (11-8), including home-and-home series sweeps in a 10-day span late in the season. The midseason acquisition of J.D. Martinez gave the Diamondbacks a right-handed force to face the Dodgers' heavily left-handed starting rotation, and Robbie Ray gave them a Dodger killer in their own rotation.

That was enough to send the Diamondbacks into their N.L. Division Series against the Dodgers loaded with confidence. But their wild-card win over the Rockies muddled their pitching plans and a three-game sweep quickly followed.

Getting back to that same place will be challenging. As much credit as Lovullo deserves for changing the culture in Arizona, it was Martinez' arrival that made the Diamondbacks a frightening opponent. He doesn't fit into the Diamondbacks' budget and the offense will suffer accordingly, though Paul Goldschmidt, A.J. Pollock and Jake Lamb—and the hitter-friendly confines of Chase Field—should keep the runs coming.

Zack Greinke's contract makes everything else a snug fit

40-MAN ROSTER

Major-league roster on Feb. 4 • Uniform numbers subject to change

Manager: Torey Lovullo (17)

Coaches: Hitting—Dave Magadan (18), Tim Laker (59), Pitching—Mike Butcher (23), 1B—Dave McKay (39), 3B—Tony Perezchica (1), Bench—Jerry Narron (12), Bullpen—Mike Fetters (43), Catching—Robby Hammock (7)

NO.	PITCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
50	Anthony Banda	L/L	6'2"	190	8/10/93
33	Jake Barrett	R/R	6'2"	240	7/22/91
31	Brad Boxberger	R/R	6'2"	205	5/27/88
61	Silvino Bracho	R/R	5'10"	190	7/17/92
25	Archie Bradley	R/R	6'4"	225	8/10/92
40	Andrew Chafin	R/L	6'2"	225	6/17/90
46	Patrick Corbin	L/L	6'3"	210	7/19/89
48	Randall Delgado	R/R	6'4"	220	2/9/90
52	Zack Godley	R/R	6'3"	240	4/21/90
21	Zack Greinke	R/R	6'2"	200	10/21/83
66	Yoshihisa Hirano	R/R	6'1"	185	3/8/84
55	Matt Koch	L/R	6'3"	215	11/2/90
30	T.J. McFarland	L/L	6'3"	220	6/8/89
63	Jared Miller	L/L	6'7"	240	8/21/93
26	Shelby Miller	R/R	6'3"	225	10/10/90
38	Robbie Ray	L/L	6'2"	195	10/1/91
54	Jimmie Sherfy	R/R	6'0"	175	12/27/91
34	Braden Shipley	R/R	6'1"	190	2/22/92
56	Albert Suarez	R/R	6'3"	235	10/8/89
99	Taijuan Walker	R/R	6'4"	235	8/13/92

NO.	CATCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
	Alex Avila	L/R	5'11"	210	1/29/87
10	Chris Herrmann	L/R	6'0"	200	11/24/87
2	Jeff Mathis	R/R	6'0"	205	3/31/83
36	John Ryan Murphy	R/R	5'11"	205	5/13/91

NO.	INFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
13	Nick Ahmed	R/R	6'2"	195	3/15/90
3	Daniel Descalso	L/R	5'10"	190	10/19/86
27	Brandon Drury	R/R	6'2"	210	8/21/92
44	Paul Goldschmidt	R/R	6'3"	225	9/10/87
22	Jake Lamb	L/R	6'3"	215	10/9/90
74	Domingo Leyba	S/R	5'11"	160	9/11/95
4	Ketel Marte	S/R	6'1"	165	10/12/93
16	Chris Owings	R/R	5'10"	185	8/12/91
76	Jack Reinheimer	R/R	6'1"	185	7/19/92
15	Ildemaro Vargas	S/R	6'0"	170	7/16/91
53	Christian Walker	R/R	6'0"	220	3/28/91

NO.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
19	Socrates Brito	L/L	6'2"	205	9/6/92
41	Jeremy Hazelbaker	L/R	6'3"	190	8/14/87
6	David Peralta	L/L	6'1"	210	8/14/87
11	A.J. Pollock	R/R	6'1"	195	12/5/87
24	Yasmany Tomas	R/R	6'2"	250	11/14/90

(AP Photo/Mam Y. Hui)

in that budget. Arizona has been open to moving its staff ace, particularly with Ray's emergence last season. If Greinke returns, though, that gives the Diamondbacks an imposing 1-2 pair at the front of their rotation.

The one player who might have the greatest influence on the Diamondbacks' ability to consolidate last season's leap forward is Archie Bradley. With Bradley, a crucial weapon as a setup man last season (a 1.73 ERA, 1.09 WHIP and 79 strikeouts over 73 innings), the Diamondbacks bullpen was second only to the Dodgers' in ERA. Bradley will be asked to take the big step into the closer role, replacing the departed Fernando Rodney. **BD**

2018 SCHEDULE

MARCH	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER				
29, 30, 31 APRIL 2, 3, 4 5, 7, 8 9, 10, 11 13, 14, 15 17, 18, 19 20, 21, 22 24, 25, 26 27, 28, 29 30	Col. 1, 2, 3 4, 5, 6 8, 9 10, 11, 12, 13 14, 15, 16 18, 19, 20 21, 22, 23 25, 26, 27 28, 29, 30	L.A. Hou. @ L.A. Wash. Mil. @ N.Y. @ Mil. @ Oak. Cin.	1, 2, 3 4, 5, 6 8, 9, 10 11, 12, 13 14, 15, 16, 17 18, 19 21, 22, 23, 24 25, 26, 27, 28 29, 30	Mia. @ S.F. @ Col. Pit. N.Y. @ L.A. @ Pit. @ Mia. S.F.	1 2, 3, 4 5, 6, 7, 8 10, 11, 12 13, 14, 15 20, 21, 22 23, 24, 25, 26 27, 28, 29 30, 31	S.F. St.L. S.D. 10, 11, 12 14, 15 16, 17, 18, 19 21, 22 24, 25, 26 27, 28, 29 30, 31	S.F. Phi. @ Cin. @ Tex. @ S.D. L.A. Sea. @ S.F. @ L.A.	1, 2 3, 4 6, 7, 8, 9 10, 11, 12, 13 14, 15, 16 17, 18, 19 21, 22, 23 24, 25, 26 28, 29, 30	@ L.A. S.D. Atl. @ Col. @ Hou. Chi. Col. L.A. @ S.D.

Boldface indicates interleague games. All-Star Game is on July 17 in Washington, D.C.

BUSTER POSEY

40-MAN ROSTER

Major-league roster on Feb. 4 • Uniform numbers subject to change

Manager: Bruce Bochy (15)

Coaches: Hitting—Alonzo Powell (33), Rick Schu (39), Pitching—Curt Young (43), 1B—Jose Alguacil (17), 3B—Ron Wotus (23), Bench—Hensley Meulens (31), Bullpen—Matt Herges (77)

NO.	PITCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
38	Tyler Beede	R/R	6'3"	210	5/23/93
50	Ty Blach	R/L	6'2"	200	10/20/90
40	Madison Bumgarner	R/L	6'5"	250	8/1/89
47	Johnny Cueto	R/R	5'11"	220	2/15/86
49	Sam Dyson	R/R	6'1"	205	5/7/88
70	Julian Fernandez	R/R	6'2"	160	12/5/95
62	Cory Gearrin	R/R	6'3"	200	4/14/86
67	Roberto Gomez	S/R	6'5"	180	8/3/89
68	Joan Gregorio	R/R	6'7"	180	1/12/92
73	Tyler Herb	R/R	6'2"	175	4/28/92
86	Chase Johnson	R/R	6'3"	190	1/9/92
58	Pierce Johnson	R/R	6'3"	200	5/10/91
64	Derek Law	R/R	6'2"	210	9/14/90
41	Mark Melancon	R/R	6'2"	210	3/28/85
54	Reyes Moronta	R/R	6'0"	175	1/6/93
32	Steven Okert	L/L	6'3"	210	7/9/91
61	Josh Osich	L/L	6'2"	230	9/3/88
29	Jeff Samardzija	R/R	6'5"	225	1/23/85
13	Will Smith	R/L	6'5"	265	7/10/89
85	D.J. Snelten	L/L	6'7"	245	5/29/92
34	Chris Stratton	R/R	6'3"	190	8/22/90
60	Hunter Strickland	R/R	6'4"	220	9/24/88

NO.	CATCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
5	Nick Hundley	R/R	6'1"	205	9/8/83
28	Buster Posey	R/R	6'1"	215	3/27/87

NO.	INFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
9	Brandon Belt	L/L	6'5"	220	4/20/88
35	Brandon Crawford	L/R	6'2"	215	1/21/87
52	Miguel Gomez	S/R	5'10"	185	12/17/92
63	Ryder Jones	L/R	6'3"	215	6/7/94
10	Evan Longoria	R/R	6'2"	210	10/7/85
12	Joe Panik	L/R	6'1"	190	10/30/90
48	Pablo Sandoval	S/R	5'11"	255	8/11/86
37	Kelby Tomlinson	R/R	6'3"	180	6/16/90

NO.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
66	Gorkys Hernandez	R/R	6'1"	190	9/7/87
16	Austin Jackson	R/R	6'1"	205	2/1/87
22	Andrew McCutchen	R/R	5'10"	195	10/10/86
6	Jarrett Parker	L/L	6'4"	210	1/1/89
8	Hunter Pence	R/R	6'4"	220	4/13/83
53	Austin Slater	R/R	6'2"	215	12/13/92
51	Mac Williamson	R/R	6'4"	240	7/15/90

(AP Photo/Matt Stocum)

4. SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS

A 98-loss team (tied for the worst record in baseball) with an aging core prone to injury looked ripe for a rebuild this winter. It didn't get it.

Instead, the Giants aggressively pursued a trade for Giancarlo Stanton and the massive contract obligation that comes with him. They failed to get Stanton, but did acquire 32-year-old Evan Longoria and 31-year-old Andrew McCutchen.

Longoria fills a massive hole at third base. Last year, Giants third basemen combined for nine home runs and a .568 OPS, dead last in the majors and a big drag on an offense that finished at or near the bottom in—well, pretty much everything. Stanton matched the RBI total of San Francisco's three most-used outfielders, so McCutchen also should be an offensive upgrade.

With a more productive lineup, if Madison Bumgarner puts the dirt bike away—he made only 17 starts in 2017

after suffering shoulder and rib injuries while indulging in his hobby)—another 98-loss season is unlikely.

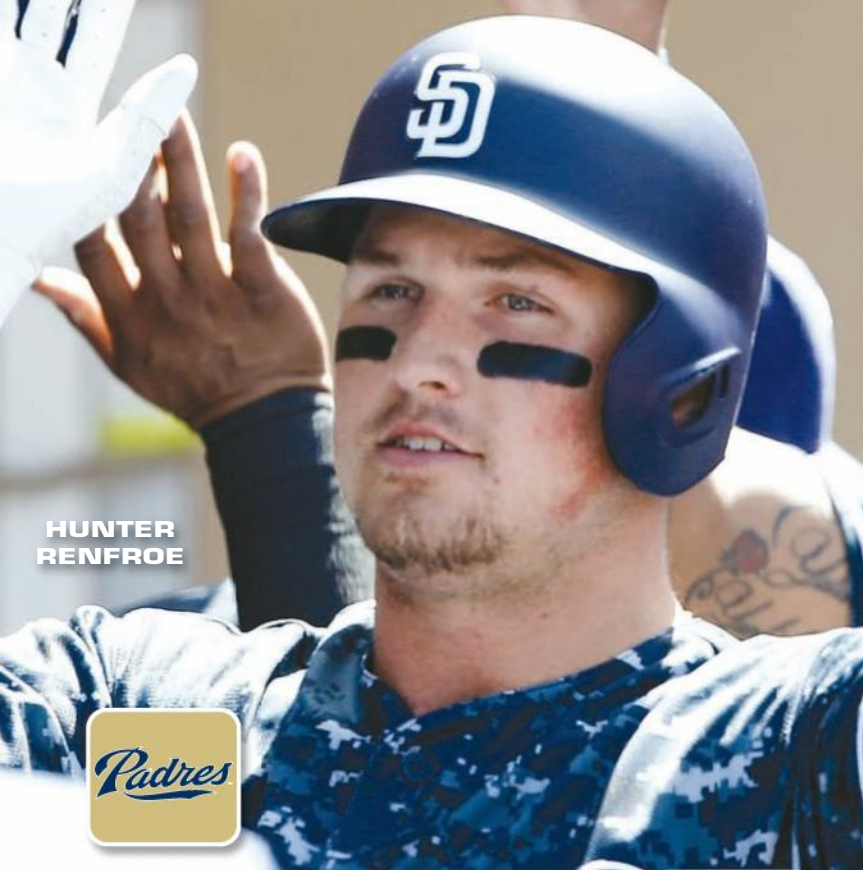
Also unlikely is a reversal of the aging process. Like Buster Posey (31) and Hunter Pence (34), Longoria is another core player on the wrong side of 30—and he hit 16 fewer home runs and lost 100 points off his OPS between 2016 and 2017.

The real onus, however, is on developing young players who can supplement the aging core. So far, the Giants have not done that very successfully and a .402 winning percentage (94-140) since the 2016 All-Star break is the canary in the coal mine. **BD**

2018 SCHEDULE

MARCH	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
29, 30, 31 @ L.A.	1, 2 S.D.	1, 2, 3 Phi.	1 Ari.	2, 3, 4, 5 @ Ari.	1, 2 N.Y.
APRIL	4, 5, 6 @ Atl.	4, 5, 6 Ari.	2, 3, 4 @ Col.	6, 7 @ Col.	3, 4, 5 @ Col.
1 @ L.A.	@ Phi.	8, 9, 10 @ Wash.	5, 6, 7, 8 St.L.	9, 10, 11, 12 St.L.	7, 8, 9 @ Mil.
3, 4 Sea.	@ Pit.	11, 12, 13, 14 @ Mja.	9, 10, 11 Chi.	13, 14, 15 Chi.	10, 11, 12 Atl.
6, 7, 8 L.A.	Cin.	15, 16, 17 @ L.A.	13, 14, 15 Oak.	17, 18, 19 @ Oak.	14, 15, 16 Col.
9, 10, 11 Ari.	Col.	18, 19, 20 Mia.	20, 21, 22 @ Oak.	20, 21, 22, 23 @ N.Y.	17, 18, 19 @ S.D.
12, 13, 14, 15 @ S.D.	22, 23 @ Hou.	21, 22, 23, 24 S.D.	24, 25 @ Sea.	24, 25, 26 Tex.	21, 22, 23 @ St.L.
17, 18, 19 @ Ari.	@ Chi.	26, 27, 28 Col.	26, 27, 28, 29 Mil.	27, 28, 29 Ari.	24, 25, 26 S.D.
20, 21, 22 @ L.A.	@ Col.	29, 30 @ Ari.	30, 31 @ S.D.	31 N.Y.	28, 29, 30 L.A.
23, 24, 25 Wash.					
27, 28, 29 L.A.					
30 S.D.					

Boldface indicates interleague games. All-Star Game is on July 17 in Washington, D.C.



HUNTER RENFROE



5. SAN DIEGO PADRES

It has been a rough 10-year stretch for the Padres. They have had nine losing seasons in that time—including last year's 91-loss campaign, the latest in a run of seven consecutive losing seasons—with a sad winning percentage of .457.

The Padres aren't ready to turn that around quite yet. But they can sell hope. After a series of missteps in his first year as general manager, A.J. Preller has set a clear course, stockpiling talent in the minors. Almost every evaluation pegs the Padres system as one of the deepest in baseball.

It will take time for that talent to reach the majors. In 2017, outfielders Manuel Margot and Hunter Renfroe (a franchise rookie record 26 home runs) and second baseman Carlos Asuaje established themselves as big leaguers. Pitchers Dinelson Lamet and Luis Perdomo showed promise at times in the starting rotation.

There is more on the way. Nineteen-year-old shortstop Fernando Tatis Jr. is a dynamic talent who touched Double-A last year. Pitching prospect Anderson Espinoza's arrival will be delayed by Tommy John surgery last summer, but prospects like Joey Lucchesi, Cal Quantrill and MacKenzie Gore are also on the way.

40-MAN ROSTER

Major-league roster on Feb. 4 • Uniform numbers subject to change

Manager: Andy Green (14)

Coaches: Hitting—Matt Stairs (47), Johnny Washington (28), Pitching—Darren Balsey (36), 1B—Skip Schumaker (5), 3B—Glenn Hoffman (30), Bench—Mark McGwire (25), Bullpen—Doug Bochtler (45), Outfield—Jon Mathews (67)

NO.	PITCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
77	Buddy Baumann	L/L	5'11"	198	12/9/87
54	Colten Brewer	R/R	6'4"	230	10/29/92
56	Carter Capps	R/R	6'5"	230	8/7/90
65	Jose Castillo	L/L	6'4"	200	1/10/96
43	Miguel Diaz	R/R	6'1"	175	11/28/94
41	Robbie Erlin	R/L	6'0"	190	10/8/90
52	Brad Hand	L/L	6'3"	228	3/20/90
64	Dinelson Lamet	R/R	6'4"	187	7/18/92
62	Walker Lockett	R/R	6'5"	225	5/3/94
27	Jordan Lyles	R/R	6'4"	230	10/19/90
53	Kazuhisa Makita	R/R	5'10"	181	11/10/84
88	Phil Maton	R/R	6'3"	220	3/25/93
38	Kyle McGrath	L/L	6'2"	185	7/31/92
50	Bryan Mitchell	L/R	6'3"	210	4/19/91
61	Luis Perdomo	R/R	6'2"	185	5/9/93
29	Colin Rea	R/R	6'5"	225	7/1/90
3	Clayton Richard	L/L	6'5"	240	9/12/83
34	Craig Stammen	R/R	6'4"	230	3/9/84
65	Matt Strahm	R/L	6'3"	185	11/12/91
76	Jose Torres	L/L	6'2"	175	9/24/93
57	Brad Wieck	L/L	6'9"	255	10/14/91
39	Kirby Yates	L/R	5'10"	210	3/25/87

NO.	CATCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
58	Rocky Gale	R/R	6'1"	185	2/22/88
18	Austin Hedges	R/R	6'1"	206	8/18/92
21	Luis Torrens	R/R	6'0"	175	5/2/96

NO.	INFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
20	Carlos Asuaje	L/R	5'9"	158	11/2/91
17	Allen Cordoba	R/R	6'1"	175	12/6/95
13	Freddy Galvis	S/R	5'10"	185	11/14/89
70	Javier Guerra	L/R	5'11"	155	9/25/95
12	Chase Headley	S/R	6'2"	215	5/9/84
4	Wil Myers	R/R	6'3"	205	12/10/90
15	Cory Spangenberg	L/R	6'0"	195	3/16/91
22	Christian Villanueva	R/R	5'11"	210	6/19/91

NO.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
33	Franchy Cordero	L/R	6'3"	175	9/2/94
24	Alex Dickerson	L/L	6'3"	235	5/26/90
16	Travis Jankowski	L/R	6'2"	185	6/15/91
7	Manuel Margot	R/R	5'11"	180	9/28/94
2	Jose Pirela	R/R	6'0"	220	11/21/89
10	Hunter Renfroe	R/R	6'1"	220	1/28/92
23	Matt Szczur	R/R	6'0"	200	7/20/89

(AP Photo/Alex Gallardo)

The Padres added veteran third baseman Chase Headley and shortstop Freddy Galvis to give manager Andy Green some more experienced hands to work with for now.

But in the meantime, the Padres' greatest assets might be the force of Green's tone-setting determination, their lone in-his-prime hitter (Wil Myers), and a well-stocked bullpen that added Bryan Mitchell (unless he wins a spot in the starting rotation) and Japanese side-armer Kazuhisa Makita.

The team's executive chairman Ron Fowler has proclaimed 2019 a target for the Padres' return to playoff contention. That is probably too optimistic. But at least the Padres have found something to be optimistic about. **BD**

2018 SCHEDULE

MARCH

29, 30, 31 Mil.

APRIL

2, 3, 4, 5 Col.
6, 7, 8 @ Hou.
 9, 10, 11 @ Col.
 12, 13, 14, 15 S.F.
 16, 17, 18 L.A.
 20, 21, 22 @ Ari.
 23, 24, 25 @ Col.
 27, 28, 29 N.Y.
 30 @ S.F.

MAY

1, 2 @ S.F.
 4, 5, 6 L.A.
 7, 8, 9 Wash.
 10, 11, 12, 13 St.L.
 14, 15 Col.
 17, 18, 19, 20 @ Pit.
 21, 22, 23 @ Wash.
 25, 26, 27 @ L.A.
 28, 29, 30, 31 Mia.

JUNE

1, 2, 3 Cin.
 4, 5, 6 Atl.
 8, 9, 10 @ Mia.
 11, 12, 13 @ St.L.
 14, 15, 16, 17 @ Atl.
19, 20 Oak.
 21, 22, 23, 24 @ S.F.
25, 26, 27 @ Tex.
 29, 30 Pit.

JULY

1 Pit.
3, 4 @ Oak.
 5, 6, 7, 8 @ Ari.
 9, 10, 11, 12 L.A.
 13, 14, 15 Chi.
 20, 21, 22 @ Phi.
 23, 24, 25 @ N.Y.
 27, 28, 29 Ari.
 30, 31 S.F.

AUGUST

2, 3, 4, 5 @ Chi.
 7, 8, 9 @ Mil.
 10, 11, 12 Phi.
13, 14, 15 L.A.
 16, 17, 18, 19 Ari.
 21, 22, 23 @ Col.
 24, 25, 26 @ L.A.
 28, 29 Sea.
 30, 31 Col.

SEPTEMBER

1, 2 Col.
 3, 4 @ Ari.
 6, 7, 8, 9 @ Cin.
11, 12 @ Sea.
14, 15, 16 Tex.
 17, 18, 19 S.F.
 21, 22, 23 @ L.A.
 24, 25, 26 @ S.F.
 28, 29, 30 Ari.

Boldface indicates interleague games. All-Star Game is on July 17 in Washington, D.C.

RICK PORCELLO

Full Name: Frederick Alfred Porcello III
Age: 29 **Born:** December 27, 1988,
 in Morristown, NJ

Throws: Right **Bats:** Right
Home: Chester Township, NJ
HT: 6-5 **WT:** 205

Nickname: Rick
Status/Family:
 Single

Life outside baseball: I've always been very close to my family. I spend a lot of time with them and friends, who I don't get to see much during the season.

Sports hero when I was young:

Michael Jordan

People who influenced me the most:

My parents. They gave me and my brother (Zach) the opportunity to play sports. It's something you take for granted when you're a kid. But they took a lot of time out of their lives for us.

Best advice anyone ever gave me:

Never forget where you came from and always remember your roots.

Players, past or present, I'd pay to watch play baseball:

Torii Hunter, Babe Ruth, Bob Feller

Hobbies: Golf and fly fishing

Type of car: Ford F-150 and Range Rover

Favorite movie: "Major League" and "The Godfather"

Favorite actor: Will Farrell and Vince Vaughn

Favorite TV show: Anything on HBO

Favorite music: I like all of it.

Favorite food: Italian

Favorite ballparks: PNC Park, Safeco Field and Petco Park

The true sign of success is: I think it's the guy who can get back out there after he's knocked down. Those are the guys who are going to be successful.

Person in history I'd like to have met:

Teddy Roosevelt

Player I learned the most from:

Victor Martinez

Three favorite cities on the road:

Chicago, Toronto and Seattle

Characteristic I admire in a person:

Respect and humility

Favorite sports team outside of baseball:

Boston Bruins

Best time of my life: Pretty much the day I started playing professional baseball. The day I got drafted, all the way up until now. This is all I've wanted to do since I was a kid.

Biggest disappointment: I'd say the past nine seasons—every team I have been on hasn't won the World Series.

Most important attribute a baseball player needs:

A short memory

If I could change one thing about baseball it would be:

I like the game in its purest form and the way it was meant to be

played. No replays and slide rules. They have taken some of the human element out of it.

I'm most proud of: Being a good teammate

Behind my back they say:

He's intense.

If not a ballplayer, I would have been:

I have no idea. I was fortunate enough to be in the position to not have to think about what else I would want to do.

Toughest batter I have ever faced:

They're all pretty tough. Robinson Cano and Jacoby Ellsbury have given me the most trouble.

Life after baseball: I don't know. I like to take it one day at a time.

Three people I'd invite to dinner:

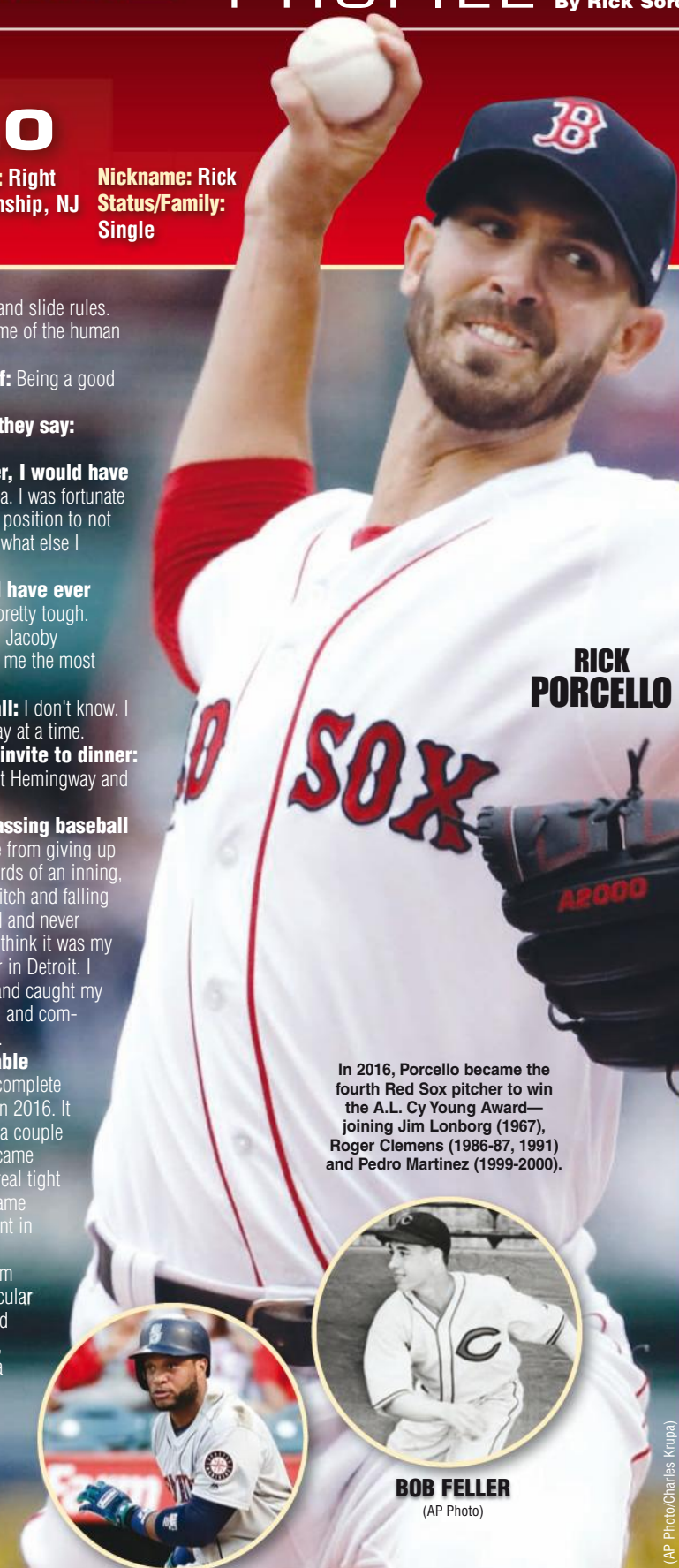
Ted Williams, Ernest Hemingway and Abraham Lincoln

My most embarrassing baseball experience:

Aside from giving up nine runs in two-thirds of an inning, trying to deliver a pitch and falling down off the mound and never releasing the ball. I think it was my second or third year in Detroit. I was in my windup and caught my spike on the mound and completely toppled over.

My most memorable game:

I pitched a complete game in Baltimore in 2016. It was memorable for a couple of reasons. One, it came when we were in a real tight playoff race. That game helped put us in front in the standings. Also, because this kid from Michigan with muscular dystrophy, who I had seen two days prior, asked me to throw a complete game for him. I told him I would. In the ninth inning, I had a shot to do it and all I could think about was this kid. And I did it.



RICK PORCELLO

In 2016, Porcello became the fourth Red Sox pitcher to win the A.L. Cy Young Award—joining Jim Lonborg (1967), Roger Clemens (1986-87, 1991) and Pedro Martinez (1999-2000).



ROBINSON CANO
 (AP Photo/Chris Carlson)



BOB FELLER
 (AP Photo)

(AP Photo/Charles Krupa)

NATIONAL LEAGUE CENTRAL

ROOKIES TO WATCH



JESSE WINKER

Jesse Winker, Reds, OF

A pure hitter with advanced plate discipline, Winker's progress has been slowed by wrist injuries. He's still hit .298 and posted a .398 OBP in the minors, but power has been slow to come. For Triple-A Louisville in 2017, the left-handed batter hit .314/.395/.408 with 22 doubles and two home runs in 85 games before getting his first look in Cincinnati. In five different stints with the Reds, Winker hit .298/.375/.529 with seven homers in just 121 at-bats. Cincinnati's outfield is crowded, but he's the long-term plan for left field.

Nick Senzel, Reds, 3B

The second overall pick in 2016, Senzel was terrific in his first full season as a pro in 2017, hitting .321/.391/.514 with 40 doubles and 14 homers in 119 games for high Class-A Daytona and Double-A Pensacola. He was even more productive after the jump to Pensacola, calling on his bat speed and plate discipline to post a .973 OPS in 57 games. Even with Eugenio Suarez lodged at third, Senzel could make the Opening Day roster with a good spring if he can handle outfield duty.

Jack Flaherty, Cardinals, RHP

St. Louis' first-round pick in 2014, Flaherty has recorded a 2.77 ERA and a strikeout per inning in five minor-league seasons. The 22-year-old high-school product has picked up velocity and polished four pitches on his way to the high minors. At Double-A Springfield and Triple-A Memphis in 2017, he went 14-4 with a 2.18 ERA and 1.04 WHIP before joining the Cardinals in September. Results were spotty, but Flaherty should complete his steady climb to St. Louis in 2018.

Brandon Woodruff, Brewers, RHP

The Brewers added veterans over the winter to bolster the rotation, but Woodruff may work his way into the mix after making his big-league debut in 2017. An 11th-round pick in 2014, the 6-foot-4 Woodruff has become a more consistent strike-thrower who induces plenty of grounders with his late-sinking fastball, which he complements with an effective slider. Pitching in the hitter-friendly environment of Triple-A Colorado Springs in 2017, he recorded a 4.30 ERA in 16 starts before going 2-3 (4.81) in eight starts for Milwaukee.

Tyler Mahle, Reds, RHP

The youthful Reds need dependable starters, and Mahle showed promise in his September debut, posting a 2.70 ERA and blanking the Pirates and Cardinals in four starts. He issued 11 walks in 20 innings after allowing just 30 walks over 144.1 innings for Double-A Pensacola and Triple-A Louisville, but the 23-year-old Mahle has demonstrated impressive command and solid stuff in the minors. He also changes speeds and mixes his pitches well, skills that should lead to a long look in Cincinnati.

DID YOU KNOW . . . that last season Joey Votto of the Reds led the National League in on-base percentage for the fifth time in his big-league career? Since 1900, only nine other MLB players have led the league in OBP five or more times—Ted Williams (12), Babe Ruth (10), Barry Bonds (10), Rogers Hornsby (9), Ty Cobb (7), Stan Musial (6), Wade Boggs (6), Lou Gehrig (5) and Carl Yastrzemski (5).



CROSSING THE PLATE

Cubs slugger Kris Bryant has scored 319 runs in his first three major-league seasons, and ranks first among all other N.L. Central players in runs scored since 2015.

PLAYER, TEAM	RUNS
Kris Bryant, Cubs	319
Joey Votto, Reds	302
Anthony Rizzo, Cubs	287
Matt Carpenter, Cardinals	273
Andrew McCutchen, Pirates	266
Dexter Fowler, Cubs/Cardinals	254



KRIS BRYANT

JOEY VOTTO

AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar

• Since 1994, when the N.L. switched to a three-division format (East, West, Central), Central Division teams have captured nine N.L. MVP awards, three Cy Young awards and seven Rookie of the Year honors.

• In 2017, three MLB teams had a trio of players with 30 or more homers, including two from the N.L. Central—Milwaukee and Cincinnati. The three 30-HR players for the Brewers were **Eric Thames** (31), **Travis Shaw** (31) and **Domingo Santana** (30). The Reds hitters were **Joey Votto** (36), **Adam Duvall** (31) and **Scott Schebler** (30).



TRAVIS SHAW

AP Photo/Denik Hamilton



CESAR IZTURIS

AP Photo/Charles Rex Arbogast

DID YOU KNOW . . . Cesar Izturis and Ted Savage are the only players in MLB history to play for all five N.L. Central franchises? Izturis played for the Cubs in 2006-07, Pirates in 2007, Cardinals in 2008, Brewers in 2012, and Reds in 2013. Savage was a member of the Pirates in 1963, Cardinals in 1965-67, Cubs in 1967-68, Reds in 1969, and Brewers in 1970-71.

CHICAGO CUBS

World Series Titles: 3
Pennants: 11
Division Titles: 7
Wins: 10,803
Losses: 10,258
100-W Seasons: 6
100-L Seasons: 3



DAVID DUROCHIK/SPORTPICS FERGIE JENKINS

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

World Series Titles: 11
Pennants: 19
Division Titles: 13
Wins: 10,739
Losses: 9,918
100-W Seasons: 9
100-L Seasons: 4



DAVID DUROCHIK/SPORTPICS STAN MUSIAL

MILWAUKEE BREWERS

World Series Titles: 0
Pennants: 1
Division Titles: 3
Wins: 3,728
Losses: 4,077
100-W Seasons: 0
100-L Seasons: 1



DAVID DUROCHIK/SPORTPICS ROBIN YOUNT

PITTSBURGH PIRATES

World Series Titles: 5
Pennants: 7
Division Titles: 9
Wins: 10,394
Losses: 10,233
100-W Seasons: 2
100-L Seasons: 8



DAVID DUROCHIK/SPORTPICS WILLIE STARGELL

CINCINNATI REDS

World Series Titles: 5
Pennants: 9
Division Titles: 12
Wins: 10,457
Losses: 10,211
100-W Seasons: 4
100-L Seasons: 1



DAVID DUROCHIK/SPORTPICS JOHNNY BENCH

FRANCHISE LEADERS

HR: Sammy Sosa (545)
H: Cap Anson (3,012)
RBI: Cap Anson (1,880)
W: Charlie Root (201)
SO: Fergie Jenkins (2,038)
Svs: Lee Smith (180)

FRANCHISE LEADERS

HR: Stan Musial (475)
H: Stan Musial (3,630)
RBI: Stan Musial (1,951)
W: Bob Gibson (251)
SO: Bob Gibson (3,117)
Svs: Jason Isringhausen (217)

FRANCHISE LEADERS

HR: Ryan Braun (302)
H: Robin Yount (3,142)
RBI: Robin Yount (1,406)
W: Jim Slaton (117)
SO: Yovani Gallardo (1,226)
Svs: Dan Plesac (133)

FRANCHISE LEADERS

HR: Willie Stargell (475)
H: Roberto Clemente (3,000)
RBI: Willie Stargell (1,540)
W: Wilbur Cooper (202)
SO: Bob Friend (1,682)
Svs: Elroy Face (186)

FRANCHISE LEADERS

HR: Johnny Bench (389)
H: Pete Rose (3,358)
RBI: Johnny Bench (1,376)
W: Eppa Rixey (179)
SO: Jim Maloney (1,592)
Svs: Danny Graves (182)

NATIONAL LEAGUE

CENTRAL DIVISION PREVIEW

By Bruce Levine and Joel Bierig

Perhaps Chicago Cubs fans chuckled last season at the plight of the arch-rival St. Louis Cardinals. There was the Cubs' erstwhile table setter, Dexter Fowler, batting third and fourth for the Redbirds almost as often as he led off.

It was a sign of dysfunction in the St. Louis batting order.

Though the Cubs didn't repeat as World Series champions, they again captured the division and advanced to the NLCS.

Hatfields and McCoys.

Over the winter, the Cubs' confident young catcher, Willson Contreras, expressed his intention to surpass the careers of perennial All-Stars Yadier Molina of the Cardinals and Buster Posey of the San Francisco Giants. Molina responded on social media: "Respect the ranks."

So it goes. In the winter of 2015, Chicago signed Gold Glove outfielder Jason Heyward and veteran pitcher John Lackey

The Cubs again hold the upper hand as the team to beat, but the Cardinals are gaining ground and the Brewers continue to improve while the Pirates and Reds are in rebuild mode

ANTHONY RIZZO

(AP Photo/Kamil Krzaczynski)



The Cardinals, meanwhile, slipped from second place in 2016 to third behind the surprising Milwaukee Brewers.

The Cubs may be coming off three consecutive postseason appearances, but no one in Chicago is snickering anymore.

Impatient with waiting on the potential of outfielders such as Stephen Piscotty and Randal Grichuk, the Cardinals opted for an immediate answer to their middle-of-the-order power shortage. Enter All-Star left fielder Marcell Ozuna, obtained in a Miami fire sale in exchange for four prospects. Just 27, Ozuna hit .312 last season with 37 homers and 124 RBI.

Not to be outdone, the Brewers reshaped their outfield by trading with Miami for multi-dimensional Christian Yelich and signing prized veteran Lorenzo Cain. Yelich was a Silver Slugger winner in 2016, while Cain keyed back-to-back Kansas City World Series teams, including a champion in 2015.

Can Ozuna, a two-way force who was a first-time Silver Slugger and Gold Glove winner in 2017, shift the balance of power in the division? The acquisition was an emphatic statement by a franchise that has missed the playoffs two seasons in a row for the first time since 2007-08.

The Cubs and Cardinals, of course, are baseball's

away from St. Louis—then won the 2016 World Series.

The Champagne hadn't dried when St. Louis signed Fowler, the Cubs' All-Star center fielder/leadoff man. For the Cards, turnabout resulted in fair play—as in mediocre. Fowler established career highs in homers (18) and RBI (64), but injuries limited him to 118 games for a team that didn't go over the .500 mark to stay until Aug. 31.

The Cubs, on the other hand, ranked second in the N.L. in offense, scoring 822 runs despite failing to adequately replace Fowler at leadoff. They also overcame another clunker of a season by Heyward—who in two years as a Cub has been a great right fielder and teammate, but has averaged just .243, nine homers and 54 RBI.

Cardinals fans shake their heads at J-Hey's eight-year, \$184-million Cubs contract. It's three years longer—and \$101.5 million more—than St. Louis gave Fowler. Offensive numbers similar to Heyward's got another right fielder—future Hall of Famer Lou Brock—traded from the Cubs to the Cardinals just two-and-a-half seasons into his career. The only defense is Heyward's fielding—five Gold Gloves, including four in a row. (Brock, victimized by Wrigley Field's right-field sun, never won any in his career.) **BD**

KRIS BRYANT



40-MAN ROSTER

Major-league roster on Feb. 4 • Uniform numbers subject to change

Manager: Joe Maddon (70)

Coaches: Hitting—Chili Davis (30), Andy Haines (19), Pitching—Jim Hickey (48), 1B—Will Venable (25), 3B—Brian Butterfield (55), Bullpen—Lester Strode (35), Catching—Mike Borzello (58)

NO.	PITCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
68	Dario Alvarez	L/L	6'1"	170	1/17/89
73	Adbert Alzolay	R/R	6'0"	179	3/1/95
33	Eddie Butler	R/R	6'2"	180	3/13/91
21	Tyler Chatwood	R/R	6'0"	185	12/16/89
41	Steve Cishek	R/R	6'6"	215	6/18/86
71	Oscar De La Cruz	R/R	6'4"	200	3/4/95
32	Brian Duensing	L/L	6'0"	200	2/22/83
6	Carl Edwards Jr.	R/R	6'3"	170	9/3/91
59	Luke Farrell	L/R	6'6"	210	6/7/91
52	Justin Grimm	R/R	6'3"	210	8/16/88
28	Kyle Hendricks	R/R	6'3"	190	12/7/89
34	Jon Lester	L/L	6'4"	240	1/7/84
36	Dillon Maples	R/R	6'2"	225	5/9/92
60	Cory Mazzoni	R/R	6'1"	210	10/19/89
24	Alec Mills	R/R	6'4"	190	11/30/91
38	Mike Montgomery	L/L	6'5"	215	7/1/89
15	Brandon Morrow	R/R	6'3"	205	7/26/84
62	Jose Quintana	R/L	6'1"	220	1/24/89
77	Randy Rosario	L/L	6'1"	200	5/18/94
11	Drew Smyly	L/L	6'3"	190	6/13/89
46	Pedro Strop	R/R	6'1"	220	6/13/85
39	Jen-Ho Tseng	L/R	6'1"	195	10/3/94
74	Duane Underwood Jr.	R/R	6'2"	210	7/20/94
37	Justin Wilson	L/L	6'2"	205	8/18/87
29	Rob Zastryzny	R/L	6'3"	205	3/26/92

NO.	CATCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
7	Victor Caratini	S/R	6'1"	215	8/17/93
40	Willson Contreras	R/R	6'1"	210	5/13/92

NO.	INFELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
9	Javier Baez	R/R	6'0"	190	12/1/92
76	David Bote	R/R	5'11"	185	4/7/93
17	Kris Bryant	R/R	6'5"	230	1/4/92
2	Tommy La Stella	L/R	5'11"	180	1/31/89
44	Anthony Rizzo	L/L	6'3"	240	8/8/89
27	Addison Russell	R/R	6'0"	200	1/23/94
18	Ben Zobrist	S/R	6'3"	210	5/26/81

NO.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
5	Albert Almora Jr.	R/R	6'2"	190	4/16/94
8	Ian Happ	S/R	6'0"	205	8/12/94
22	Jason Heyward	L/L	6'5"	240	8/9/89
12	Kyle Schwarber	L/R	6'0"	235	3/5/93
20	Mark Zagunis	R/R	6'0"	205	2/5/93

(AP Photo/Nick Wass)

1. CHICAGO CUBS

The NLCS loss to L.A. exposed bullpen shortcomings and precocious hitters still needing plate discipline. Next, free agency tolled for starters Jake Arrieta and Lackey and closer Wade Davis. Davis' departure to Colorado means the Cubs will have a new closer for the fourth time in four seasons.

The coaching staff, revamped with manager Joe Maddon's blessing, if not at his behest, features new pitching and hitting coaches. Jim Hickey must get his relievers to throw strikes (their walks increased 33 percent in 2017), while Chili Davis must get his hitters to swing at strikes (their postseason average of 10.5 strikeouts per game led all teams). Davis' pet project is Heyward (career-low 30 extra-base hits). Hickey's is struggling lefty reliever Justin Wilson (left off the NLCS roster).

Starters Jon Lester, Kyle Hendricks and Jose Quintana return, and ex-Colorado right-hander Tyler Chatwood, 11 years Lackey's junior, seems an upgrade. Happy to escape Coors Field, Chatwood is tied with Stephen Strasburg for the N.L.'s second-lowest road ERA the past two seasons (2.57)—trailing only Clayton Kershaw (2.16). Lefty swingman Mike Montgomery itches to start, but the Cubs still were seeking a top-tier free-agent arm (Arrieta, Yu Darvish, Alex Cobb).

Chicago braced for losing Davis by signing veteran right-handers Brandon Morrow and Steve Cishek. The 33-year-old Morrow, oft-injured previously, enjoyed a renaissance season (2.06 ERA, 0.92 WHIP, 98-mph velocity) setting up Dodgers All-Star Kenley Jansen. Morrow is Davis' heir apparent—despite just four save opportunities since 2009.

The bullpen arguably has five arms with closing experience or potential: Morrow, the sidearming Cishek (98 saves

for Miami and Seattle since 2013), veteran Pedro Strop, ever-promising Carl Edwards Jr. and Wilson. And the return of veteran lefty Brian Duensing (2.74 ERA in 68 appearances) is a big boost.

The offseason moves avoided sacrificing club-controlled position talent in Kyle Schwarber, Javier Baez, Addison Russell, Ian Happ and Albert Almora Jr. from alongside cornerstones Anthony Rizzo and Kris Bryant and rising catching star Willson Contreras. Not only haven't the Cubs given up on Schwarber—who dropped 20 pounds hoping to improve his left-field mobility—but Maddon pondered giving him another shot at leading off. **BD**

2018 SCHEDULE

MARCH	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
29, 30, 31 @ Mia.	1, 2 Col.	1, 2, 3 @ N.Y.	1 Min.	1 @ Pit.	1, 2 @ Phi.
APRIL	4, 5, 6 @ St.L.	5, 6, 7 Phi.	3, 4 Det.	2, 3, 4, 5 S.D.	3, 4, 5 @ Mil.
1 @ Mia.	7, 8, 9 Mia.	8, 9, 10 Pit.	6, 7, 8 Cin.	6, 7, 8 @ K.C.	6, 7, 8, 9 @ Wash.
2, 3 @ Cin.	11, 12, 13 Chi.	11, 12, 13 @ Mil.	9, 10, 11 @ S.F.	10, 11, 12 Wash.	10, 11, 12 Mil.
5, 6, 7, 8 @ Mil.	15, 16, 17 @ Atl.	15, 16, 17 @ St.L.	13, 14, 15 @ S.D.	14, 15 Mil.	14, 15, 16 @ Cin.
9, 11, 12 Pit.	18, 19, 20 @ Cin.	18, 19, 20 L.A.	19, 20, 21, 22 St.L.	16, 17, 18, 19 @ Pit.	17, 18, 19 @ Ari.
13, 14, 15 Atl.	22, 23 Cle.	21, 22, 23, 24 @ Cin.	23, 24, 25, 26 Ari.	21, 22 @ Det.	21, 22, 23 @ Chi.
16, 17, 18 St.L.	25, 26, 27 S.F.	25, 26, 27, 28 @ L.A.	27, 28, 29 @ St.L.	23, 24, 25, 26 Cin.	24, 25, 26, 27 Pit.
20, 21, 22 @ Col.	28, 29, 30 @ Pit.	29, 30 Min.	31 @ Pit.	27, 28, 29 N.Y.	28, 29, 30 St.L.
24, 25 @ Cle.	31 @ N.Y.			31 @ Phi.	
26, 27, 28, 29 Mil.					
30 Col.					

Boldface indicates interleague games. All-Star Game is on July 17 in Washington, D.C.

**MATT
CARPENTER**



2. ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

Ozuna should jump-start an offense that suffered a 15-percent drop in homers, falling from first to eighth in the N.L. in dingers. Tommy Pham moves from left to center after a breakout season at age 29 in which his .411 OBP was fifth in the majors.

Can Pham, who has yet to spend a full season in the majors, replicate his 2017 numbers (.306, 23 HR, 73 RBI, 25 SB)? The Cardinals believe so and dealt Piscotty to Oakland and Grichuk to Toronto.

Fowler (.363 OBP) is ticketed for right, and either he or first baseman Matt Carpenter (.384 OBP) will lead off. Shortstop Paul DeJong will protect Ozuna after hitting .285 with 25 homers as a rookie. Kolten Wong finally staked a solid claim to second base (.285 BA, .376 OBP). And in the absence of a marquee acquisition at third, Jedd Gyorko has averaged 25 homers the past two seasons in just over 400 at-bats per year.

Intending to retire after playing out the last three seasons on his contract, eight-time Gold Glove catcher Yadier Molina, 35, inherits a rotation that lost Lance Lynn and Mike Leake. Ace Carlos Martinez has three seasons as a starter under his belt at 26, but still must elevate his performance (12-11 last season), especially defensively. Michael Wacha (12-9) must remain healthy, and Adam Wainwright, 36, must turn back time. Wainwright's two-year 25-14 record includes an unsightly 4.81 ERA.

Right-hander Miles Mikolas, 29, joins the rotation after three solid seasons in Japan. Youngsters Luke Weaver (7-2

40-MAN ROSTER

Major-league roster on Feb. 4 • Uniform numbers subject to change

Manager: Mike Matheny (22)

Coaches: Hitting—John Mabry (47), Bill Mueller (23), Pitching—Mike Maddux (31), 1B—Oliver Marmol (37), 3B—Jose Oquendo (11), Bench—Mike Shildt (38)

NO.	PITCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
67	Matt Bowman	R/R	6'0"	175	5/31/91
60	John Brebbia	L/R	6'1"	185	5/30/90
27	Brett Cecil	R/L	6'3"	235	7/2/86
32	Jack Flaherty	R/R	6'4"	205	10/15/95
53	John Gant	R/R	6'3"	200	8/6/92
68	Austin Gomber	L/L	6'5"	235	11/23/93
71	Derian Gonzalez	R/R	6'3"	190	1/31/95
90	Conner Greene	R/R	6'3"	185	04/04/95
44	Luke Gregerson	L/R	6'3"	205	5/14/84
55	Dominic Leone	R/R	5'11"	210	26/10/91
77	Josh Lucas	R/R	6'6"	185	11/5/90
70	Tyler Lyons	L/L	6'4"	210	2/21/88
18	Carlos Martinez	R/R	6'0"	190	9/21/91
59	Mike Mayers	R/R	6'3"	200	12/6/91
39	Miles Mikolas	R/R	6'5"	220	8/23/88
29	Alex Reyes	R/R	6'3"	175	8/29/94
65	Ryan Sherriff	L/L	6'1"	185	5/25/90
64	Sam Tuivailala	R/R	6'3"	225	10/19/92
52	Michael Wacha	R/R	6'6"	215	7/1/91
50	Adam Wainwright	R/R	6'7"	235	8/30/81
7	Luke Weaver	R/R	6'2"	170	8/21/93
72	Rowan Wick	L/R	6'3"	220	11/9/92

NO.	CATCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
19	Carson Kelly	R/R	6'2"	220	7/14/94
4	Yadier Molina	R/R	5'11"	205	7/13/82

NO.	INFELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
13	Matt Carpenter	L/R	6'3"	205	11/26/85
12	Paul DeJong	R/R	6'1"	195	8/2/93
35	Greg Garcia	L/R	6'0"	190	8/8/89
3	Jedd Gyorko	R/R	5'10"	215	9/23/88
62	Yairo Munoz	R/R	6'1"	165	1/23/95
80	Edmundo Sosa	R/R	5'11"	170	3/6/96
41	Breyvic Valera	S/R	5'11"	160	1/8/92
40	Luke Voit	R/R	6'3"	225	2/13/91
16	Kolten Wong	L/R	5'9"	185	10/10/90

NO.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
48	Harrison Bader	R/R	6'0"	195	6/3/94
25	Dexter Fowler	S/R	6'5"	195	3/22/86
38	Jose Martinez	R/R	6'6"	215	7/25/88
74	Oscar Mercado	R/R	6'2"	175	12/16/94
63	Tyler O'Neill	R/R	5'11"	210	6/22/95
23	Marcell Ozuna	R/R	6'1"	225	11/12/90
28	Tommy Pham	R/R	6'1"	210	3/8/88

(AP Photo/Jeff Roberson)

last season in 10 starts) and Jack Flaherty (14-4, 2.18 ERA in AA-AAA) also may contribute to manager Mike Matheny's staff. Top prospect Alex Reyes, 23, dominant during a 2016 opportunity, should return in May from Tommy John surgery. His initial role, however, might come in an unsettled bullpen.

The Grichuk deal netted a strong reliever in Dominic Leone (2.56 ERA, 1.05 WHIP in 65 appearances), but the Cardinals need a closer to replace departed Seung Hwan Oh and Trevor Rosenthal. Newcomer Luke Gregerson had 46 saves for Houston in 2015-16, but converted only 1 of 4 opportunities last season and allowed a homer every 4.69 innings. **BD**

2018 SCHEDULE

MARCH

29, 31 @ N.Y.

APRIL

1 @ N.Y.
2, 3, 4 @ Mil.
5, 7, 8 Ari.
9, 10, 11 Mil.
12, 13, 14, 15 @ Cin.
16, 17, 18 @ Chi.
20, 21, 22 Cin.
24, 25, 26 N.Y.
27, 28, 29 @ Pit.

MAY

1, 2 Chi.
4, 5, 6 Chi.
7, 8 Min.
10, 11, 12, 13 @ S.D.
15, 16 @ Min.
17, 18, 19, 20 Phi.
21, 22, 23 K.C.
25, 26, 27 @ Pit.
28, 29, 30 @ Mil.
31 Pit.

JUNE

1, 2, 3 Pit.
5, 6, 7 Mia.
8, 9, 10 @ Cin.
11, 12, 13 S.D.
15, 16, 17 Chi.
18, 19, 20 @ Phi.
21, 22, 23, 24 @ Mil.
25, 26, 27 Cle.
29, 30 Atl.

JULY

1 Atl.
2, 3, 4 @ Ari.
5, 6, 7, 8 @ S.F.
10, 11 @ Chi.
13, 14, 15 Cin.
19, 20, 21, 22 @ Chi.
23, 24, 25 @ Cin.
27, 28, 29 Chi.
30, 31 Col.

AUGUST

1, 2 Col.
3, 4, 5 @ Pit.
6, 7, 8 @ Mia.
10, 11, 12 @ K.C.
13, 14, 15, 16 Wash.
17, 18, 19 Mil.
20, 21, 22 @ L.A.
24, 25, 26 @ Col.
28, 29, 30 Pit.
31 Cin.

SEPTEMBER

1, 2 Cin.
3, 4, 5 @ Wash.
7, 8, 9 @ Det.
10, 11, 12 Pit.
13, 14, 15, 16 L.A.
17, 18, 19 @ Atl.
21, 22, 23 S.F.
24, 25, 26 Mil.
28, 29, 30 @ Chi.

Boldface indicates interleague games. All-Star Game is on July 17 in Washington, D.C.

40-MAN ROSTER

Major-league roster on Feb. 4 • Uniform numbers subject to change

Manager: Craig Counsell (30)

Coaches: Hitting—Darnell Coles (11), Pitching—Derek Johnson (36), 1B—Carlos Subero (31), 3B—Ed Sedar (--), Bench—Pat Murphy (49), Bullpen—Lee Tunnell (43), Coach—Jason Lane (40)

NO.	PITCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
37	Matt Albers	L/R	6'1"	225	1/20/83
57	Chase Anderson	R/R	6'1"	200	11/30/87
50	Jacob Barnes	R/R	6'2"	220	4/14/90
45	Jhoulys Chacin	R/R	6'3"	215	1/7/88
27	Zach Davies	R/R	6'0"	155	2/7/93
73	Marcos Diplan	R/R	6'0"	160	9/18/96
51	Oliver Drake	R/R	6'4"	215	1/13/87
49	Yovani Gallardo	R/R	6'2"	205	2/27/86
41	Junior Guerra	R/R	6'0"	205	1/16/85
71	Josh Hader	L/L	6'3"	185	4/7/94
67	Adrian Houser	R/R	6'4"	235	2/2/93
32	Jeremy Jeffress	R/R	6'0"	205	9/21/87
46	Corey Knebel	R/R	6'4"	220	11/26/91
48	Boone Logan	R/L	6'5"	215	8/13/84
28	Jorge Lopez	R/R	6'3"	195	2/10/93
52	Jimmy Nelson	R/R	6'6"	250	6/5/89
74	Freddy Peralta	R/R	5'11"	175	6/4/96
35	Brent Suter	L/L	6'5"	195	8/29/89
39	Tyler Webb	R/L	6'5"	230	7/20/90
56	Aaron Wilkerson	R/R	6'3"	190	5/24/89
54	Taylor Williams	S/R	5'11"	195	7/21/91
53	Brandon Woodruff	L/R	6'4"	215	2/10/93
NO.	CATCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
47	Jett Bandy	R/R	6'4"	235	3/26/90
9	Manny Pina	R/R	6'0"	215	6/5/87
12	Stephen Vogt	L/R	6'0"	225	11/1/84
NO.	INFELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
24	Jesus Aguilar	R/R	6'3"	250	6/30/90
3	Orlando Arcia	R/R	6'0"	165	8/4/94
66	Mauricio Dubon	R/R	6'0"	160	7/19/94
21	Travis Shaw	L/R	6'4"	230	4/16/90
18	Eric Sogard	L/R	5'9"	180	5/22/86
7	Eric Thames	L/R	6'0"	210	11/10/86
5	Jonathan Villar	S/R	6'1"	215	5/2/91
NO.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
8	Ryan Braun	R/R	6'2"	205	11/17/83
23	Keon Broxton	R/R	6'3"	195	5/7/90
6	Lorenzo Cain	R/R	6'2"	205	4/13/86
14	Hernan Perez	R/R	6'1"	215	3/26/91
33	Brett Phillips	L/R	6'0"	185	5/30/94
16	Domingo Santana	R/R	6'5"	220	8/5/92
22	Christian Yelich	L/R	6'3"	195	12/5/91

(AP Photo/John Minichillo)

San Diego, slots in alongside Davies and Chase Anderson (12-4 in 141.1 innings). Junior Guerra, Brent Suter and Brandon Woodruff also figure in, as does Yovani Gallardo, signed after subpar seasons (11-18, 5.57) with Baltimore and Seattle.

Milwaukee has a lights-out closer in Corey Knebel, who produced 39 saves and a 1.78 ERA while holding opponents to a .180 batting average. At 23, lefty Josh Hader had an outstanding rookie year (2.08 ERA, 0.99 WHIP). Left-handers hit .140 against him. Jacob Barnes (73 appearances) is a yeoman, and the Brewers picked up another 35-year-old Matt Albers. He had a 7-2 record, 1.62 ERA and 0.85 WHIP in 63 appearances for Washington. **BD**



RYAN BRAUN

3. MILWAUKEE BREWERS

Their rebuilding plan ahead of schedule, the Brewers led the division by five-and-a-half games at the All-Star break, only to finish six games behind the hard-charging Cubs—who captured three of four games in a late-September showdown in Milwaukee. Significantly, the Brewers finished 10 games above .500, their best record since 2011.

The challenge for general manager David Stearns and manager Craig Counsell is to prevent regression—especially with key starting pitcher Jimmy Nelson due to miss substantial time this season after shoulder surgery. But with Milwaukee's sudden surplus of outfielders, 30-homer man Domingo Santana and six-time All-Star Ryan Braun became possible trade chips for starting pitching.

Adding Christian Yelich and Lorenzo Cain also helped defuse some questions, such as: Can Travis Shaw, Santana and early-season flash Eric Thames repeat as 30-homer producers for a team that tied for the league lead in homers? Can Braun, 34, stay healthy after an injury-filled season marked by diminished numbers (.268, 17 HR, 52 RBI)? Can Jonathan Villar regain his 2016 form (62 SB, 19 HR, .285 BA) and claim the second-base job?

Despite a down season by Villar (23 SB, .241 BA), the Brewers led the league in steals for the second straight year. Yelich and Cain bring more speed to the lineup.

Nelson (12-6) matched the strikeout pace of Stephen Strasburg and Clayton Kershaw while giving the Brewers 175.1 innings before his injury. Staff ace Zach Davies, who finished 17-9, was the only other starter who approached the 200-inning benchmark (191.1).

Veteran Jhoulys Chacin, a 13-game winner last season for

2018 SCHEDULE

MARCH

29, 30, 31 @ S.D.

APRIL

2, 3, 4 St.L.
5, 6, 7, 8 Chi.
9, 10, 11 @ St.L.
13, 14, 15 @ N.Y.
16, 17, 18 Cin.
19, 20, 21, 22 Mia.
24, 25 @ K.C.
26, 27, 28, 29 @ Chi.
30 @ Cin.

MAY

1, 2 @ Cin.
4, 5, 6 Pit.
8, 9 Cle.
10, 11, 12, 13 @ Col.
14, 15, 16 @ Ari.
18, 19, 20 @ Min.
21, 22, 23 Ari.
24, 25, 26, 27 N.Y.
28, 29, 30 St.L.

JUNE

1, 2, 3 @ Chi.
5, 6 @ Cle.
8, 9, 10 @ Phi.
11, 12, 13 Chi.
15, 16, 17 Phi.
18, 19, 20 @ Pit.
21, 22, 23, 24 St.L.
26, 27 K.C.
28, 29, 30 @ Cin.

JULY

1 @ Cin.
2, 3, 4 Min.
5, 6, 7, 8 Atl.
9, 10, 11 @ Mia.
12, 13, 14, 15 @ Pit.
20, 21, 22 L.A.
23, 24, 25 Wash.
26, 27, 28, 29 @ S.F.
30, 31 @ L.A.

AUGUST

1, 2 @ L.A.
3, 4, 5 Col.
7, 8, 9 S.D.
10, 11, 12 @ Atl.
14, 15 @ Chi.
17, 18, 19 @ St.L.
20, 21, 22 Cin.
24, 25, 26 Pit.
28, 29, 30 @ Cin.
31 @ Wash.

SEPTEMBER

1, 2 @ Wash.
3, 4, 5 Chi.
7, 8, 9 S.F.
10, 11, 12 @ Chi.
14, 15, 16 Pit.
17, 18, 19 Cin.
21, 22, 23 @ Pit.
24, 25, 26 @ St.L.
28, 29, 30 Det.

Boldface indicates interleague games. All-Star Game is on July 17 in Washington, D.C.

JOSH BELL



40-MAN ROSTER

Major-league roster on Feb. 4 • Uniform numbers subject to change

Manager: Clint Hurdle (13)

Coaches: Hitting—Jeff Branson (2), Jeff Livesey (75), Pitching—Ray Searage (54), Justin Meccage (87), 1B—Kimeria Barteel (18), 3B—Joey Cora (28), Bench—Tom Prince (14), Bullpen—Euclides Rojas (56), Coach—Dave Jauss (85)

NO.	PITCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
76	Dario Agrazal	R/R	6'3"	216	12/28/94
43	Steven Brault	L/L	6'0"	200	4/29/92
57	Nick Burdi	R/R	6'5"	220	1/19/93
30	Kyle Crick	L/R	6'4"	220	11/30/92
45	Michael Feliz	R/R	6'4"	230	6/28/93
24	Tyler Glasnow	L/R	6'8"	220	8/23/93
68	Clay Holmes	R/R	6'5"	230	3/27/93
41	Daniel Hudson	R/R	6'3"	225	3/9/87
49	Nick Kingham	R/R	6'5"	225	11/8/91
70	George Kontos	R/R	6'3"	215	6/12/85
39	Chad Kuhl	R/R	6'3"	216	9/10/92
52	Jack Leathersich	R/L	6'0"	205	7/14/90
59	Jordan Milbrath	R/R	6'6"	215	8/1/91
59	Joe Musgrove	R/R	6'5"	265	12/4/92
66	Dovydas Neverauskas	R/R	6'3"	215	1/14/93
46	Ivan Nova	R/R	6'5"	245	1/12/87
73	Felipe Rivero	L/L	6'2"	210	7/5/91
37	Edgar Santana	R/R	6'2"	180	10/16/91
31	A.J. Schugel	R/R	6'0"	200	6/27/89
53	Josh Smoker	L/L	6'2"	246	11/26/88
50	Jameson Taillon	R/R	6'5"	225	11/18/91
34	Trevor Williams	R/R	6'3"	230	4/25/92

NO.	CATCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
29	Francisco Cervelli	R/R	6'1"	210	3/6/86
32	Elias Diaz	R/R	6'1"	215	11/17/90
58	Jacob Stallings	R/R	6'5"	220	12/22/89

NO.	INFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
55	Josh Bell	S/R	6'2"	230	8/14/92
23	David Freese	R/R	6'2"	220	4/28/83
5	Josh Harrison	R/R	5'8"	180	7/8/87
10	Jordy Mercer	R/R	6'3"	210	8/27/86
19	Colin Moran	L/R	6'4"	204	10/1/92
38	Max Moroff	S/R	5'10"	185	5/13/93
36	Jose Osuna	R/R	6'3"	240	12/12/92

NO.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
63	Christopher Bostick	R/R	5'10"	190	3/24/93
26	Adam Frazier	L/R	5'9"	185	12/14/91
47	Jordan Luplow	R/R	6'1"	195	9/26/93
6	Starling Marte	R/R	6'1"	190	10/9/88
27	Austin Meadows	L/L	6'3"	200	5/3/95
25	Gregory Polanco	L/L	6'5"	235	9/14/91
3	Sean Rodriguez	R/R	6'0"	200	4/26/85

(AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

4. PITTSBURGH PIRATES

After averaging 93 victories over three seasons—including 98 in 2015—Pittsburgh has suffered two consecutive losing campaigns. Fans hope the Bucs don't stop there—i.e., below .500 again—but economics make success difficult.

Looking to proactively recoup value, the Pirates traded icon Andrew McCutchen a year ahead of free agency and pitching ace Gerrit Cole with two seasons of club control remaining. They believe three of four players obtained from Houston for Cole—pitchers Joe Musgrove and Michael Feliz and third baseman Colin Moran—will contribute in 2018.

Of the pair acquired from San Francisco for McCutchen, only reliever Kyle Crick is an immediate plug-in. Switch-hitting outfielder Bryan Reynolds, 23, was the Giants' No. 4 prospect, but hasn't played above high Class-A.

Questions abound. Can general manager Neal Huntington and manager Clint Hurdle sneak in a postseason appearance or two during four-year contract extensions through 2021? Will second baseman Josh Harrison be traded next? Can two-time Gold Glover Starling Marte make everyone forget his 80-game PED suspension of 2017? Can a starting outfield already lacking power—46 homers (28 by McCutchen)—get by if on-base guy Adam Frazier (6 HR) joins Marte (CF) and Gregory Polanco (RF)? Does Frazier play second if Harrison departs?

Rookie first baseman Josh Bell (26 HR, 90 RBI) couldn't carry a team that finished 29th in homers and 28th in runs and OPS. With the off-field demise of Jung Ho Kang's career, Moran inherits third base off strong Triple-A num-

bers (.308, 18 HR). Old pro David Freese is insurance—if not dealt.

Musgrove, 25, spent the second half of 2017 in the bullpen and has a career 8-12 record and 5.37 ERA as a starter. Nevertheless, he joins a starting mix of Jameson Taillon, Ivan Nova, Chad Kuhl and Trevor Williams. Tyler Glasnow and Steven Brault are maybes.

Having unearthed a splendid closer in lefty Felipe Rivero (21-for-23 in saves, 1.67 ERA, 0.89 WHIP), Pittsburgh locked him up through 2023 for \$22 million—roughly the 2018 cost of Cole plus McCutchen. The 24-year-old Feliz (12-3 in relief the past two seasons despite a 4.94 ERA) should help, as should Krick, 25, and vet Geroge Kontos. **BD**

2018 SCHEDULE

MARCH		MAY		JUNE		JULY		AUGUST		SEPTEMBER	
29, 31	@ Det.	1, 2, 3	@ Wash.	1, 2, 3	@ St.L.	1	@ S.D.	1	Chi.	1, 2	@ Atl.
		4, 5, 6	@ Mil.	5, 6, 7	L.A.	2, 3, 4	@ L.A.	3, 4, 5	St.L.	3, 4, 5	Cin.
1	@ Det.	8, 9	@ Chi.	8, 9, 10	@ Chi.	6, 7, 8	Phi.	6, 7, 8	@ Col.	7, 8, 9	Mia.
2, 4	Min.	11, 12, 13	S.F.	11, 12, 13	@ Ari.	9, 10, 11	Wash.	9, 10, 11, 12	@ S.F.	10, 11, 12	@ St.L.
5, 6, 7, 8	Cin.	15, 16	Chi.	15, 16, 17	Cin.	12, 13, 14, 15	Mil.	14, 15	@ Min.	14, 15, 16	@ Mil.
9, 11, 12	@ Chi.	17, 18, 19, 20	S.D.	18, 19, 20	Mil.	20, 21, 22	@ Cin.	16, 17, 18, 19	Chi.	17, 18, 19	K.C.
13, 14, 15	@ Mia.	22, 23, 24	@ Cin.	21, 22, 23, 24	Ari.	23, 24, 25	@ Cle.	20, 21, 22	Atl.	21, 22, 23	Mil.
16, 17, 18	Col.	25, 26, 27	St.L.	25, 26, 27	@ N.Y.	26, 27, 28, 29	N.Y.	24, 25, 26	@ Mil.	24, 25, 26, 27	@ Chi.
19, 20, 21, 22	@ Phi.	28, 29, 30	Chi.	29, 30	@ S.D.	31	Chi.	28, 29, 30	@ St.L.	28, 29, 30	@ Cin.
24, 25, 26	Det.	31	@ St.L.					31	@ Atl.		
27, 28, 29	St.L.										
30	@ Wash.										

Boldface indicates interleague games. All-Star Game is on July 17 in Washington, D.C.

JOEY VOTTO



40-MAN ROSTER

Major-league roster on Feb. 4 • Uniform numbers subject to change

Manager: Bryan Price (38)

Coaches: Hitting—Don Long (59), Tony Jaramillo (64), Pitching—Mack Jenkins (57), Ted Power (56), 1B—Freddie Benavides (45), 3B—Billy Hatcher (22), Bench—Jim Riggleman (35), Catching—Mike Stefanski (72)

NO.	PITCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
34	Homer Bailey	R/R	6'4"	223	5/3/86
40	Austin Brice	R/R	6'4"	235	6/19/92
58	Luis Castillo	R/R	6'2"	190	12/12/92
54	Rookie Davis	R/R	6'5"	255	4/29/93
28	Anthony DeSclafani	R/R	6'1"	195	4/18/90
29	Brandon Finnegan	L/L	5'11"	212	4/14/93
50	Amir Garrett	R/L	6'5"	228	5/3/92
63	Ariel Hernandez	R/R	6'4"	230	3/2/92
37	David Hernandez	R/R	6'3"	245	5/13/85
48	Jared Hughes	R/R	6'7"	240	7/4/85
26	Raisel Iglesias	R/R	6'2"	188	1/4/90
74	Jose Lopez	R/R	6'1"	185	9/1/93
21	Michael Lorenzen	R/R	6'3"	217	1/4/92
30	Tyler Mahle	R/R	6'3"	210	9/29/94
36	Keury Mella	R/R	6'2"	200	8/2/93
53	Wandy Peralta	L/L	6'0"	220	7/27/91
25	Cody Reed	L/L	6'5"	228	4/15/93
73	Jesus Reyes	R/R	6'2"	180	2/21/93
47	Sal Romano	L/R	6'5"	270	10/12/93
41	Kevin Shackelford	R/R	6'5"	210	4/7/89
62	Jackson Stephens	R/R	6'2"	220	5/11/94
55	Robert Stephenson	R/R	6'2"	200	2/24/93
49	Zack Weiss	R/R	6'3"	210	6/16/92

NO.	CATCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
16	Tucker Barnhart	S/R	5'11"	192	1/7/91
39	Devin Mesoraco	R/R	6'1"	229	6/19/88
32	Stuart Turner	R/R	6'2"	220	12/27/91

NO.	INFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
66	Alex Blandino	R/R	6'0"	190	11/6/92
3	Scooter Gennett	L/R	5'10"	185	5/1/90
15	Dilson Herrera	R/R	5'10"	210	3/3/94
75	Shed Long	L/R	5'8"	180	8/22/95
9	Jose Peraza	R/R	6'0"	196	4/30/94
7	Eugenio Suarez	R/R	5'11"	213	7/18/91
19	Joey Votto	L/R	6'2"	220	9/10/83

NO.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
84	Aristides Aquino	R/R	6'4"	220	4/22/94
23	Adam Duvall	R/R	6'1"	215	9/4/88
27	Phillip Ervin	R/R	5'10"	207	7/15/92
6	Billy Hamilton	S/R	6'0"	160	9/9/90
43	Scott Schebler	L/R	6'0"	228	10/6/90
85	Jose Siri	R/R	6'2"	175	7/22/95
33	Jesse Winker	L/L	6'3"	215	8/17/93

(AP Photo/Nick Wass)

5. CINCINNATI REDS

Six Reds hit 24 or more homers last season as the team totaled 219. Unfortunately, Cincy pitchers surrendered a major-league-high 248. Manager Bryan Price's starters (count 'em, 16) compiled a 5.55 ERA, logging the fewest innings of any major-league starting staff (820). Consequently, an overworked bullpen led the majors in walks and hit-batters while allowing the second-most runs.

So, can the Reds avoid a fourth straight last-place, 90-loss season? Future Hall of Fame candidate Joey Votto hopes his 10-year, \$225-million contract extension won't end without a postseason appearance. He has six years left (seven including a club option).

Closer Raisel Iglesias is dominant (28-for-30 in saves), and ex-Brewers reliever Jared Hughes is a nice addition. For them to matter, the starters must improve. The Reds' winningest pitcher was a reliever (Michael Lorenzen, 8-4) who had an off year. The biggest workload by a starting pitcher was 111.1 innings. No starter had a winning record. You get the pitcher—er, picture.

Veteran starters Homer Bailey, Anthony DeSclafani and Brandon Finnegan face comebacks from significant injuries. Lorenzen (21 starts in 2015) may get another rotation shot. Luis Castillo had nice rookie numbers in 15 starts (3.12 ERA, 1.08 WHIP), and continued development is projected for Sal Romano, Robert Stephenson, Amir Garrett and Tyler Mahle.

Jose Peraza must step up for departed All-Star shortstop Zack Cozart, while center fielder Billy Hamilton must step it up, period. He averages 58 steals, but a career .298 OBP doesn't cut it leading off.

With Eugenio Suarez (26 HR, 82 RBI) entrenched at third, top prospect Nick Senzel, 22, will try short, second and out-

field in his first big-league camp—after just 57 games at Doulbe-A Pensacola.

Corner outfielders Adam Duvall and Scott Schebler were 30-homer producers, but prospect Jesse Winker, who maintained a 30-homer pace in 47 games, is vying for playing time. A starting outfielder or two, including Hamilton, could be traded.

Meanwhile, the Reds will look to replace Cozart's 24 homers while also hoping the Scooter Gennett they saw at second base last year (.295, 27 HR, 97 RBI, including a four-homer game) was for real. Fortunately, hope springs eternal in the Queen City. **BD**

2018 SCHEDULE

MARCH	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	
29, 31 APRIL	1, 2 4, 5, 6 7, 8, 9	1, 2, 3 5, 6, 7 8, 9, 10	1 2, 3, 4 6, 7, 8	1 2, 3, 4, 5 6, 7, 8	1, 2 3, 4, 5 6, 7, 8, 9	
1 2, 3 5, 6, 7, 8 9, 10, 11 12, 13, 14, 15 16, 17, 18 20, 21, 22 23, 24, 25, 26 27, 28, 29 30	10, 11, 12, 13 14, 15, 16 18, 19, 20 22, 23, 24 25, 26, 27 28, 29, 30	12, 13 15, 16, 17 19, 20 21, 22, 23, 24 25, 26, 27 28, 29, 30	@ S.D. Col. St.L. @ K.C. @ Pit. Det. Chi. @ Atl. Mil.	Mil. Chi. @ Chi. @ Cle. @ St.L. Pit. St.L. Phi. @ Det.	@ Det. @ Wash. @ N.Y. Ari. Cle. S.F. @ Mil. @ Chi. Mil. @ St.L.	@ St.L. @ Pit. S.D. L.A. @ Chi. @ Mil. @ Mia. K.C. Pit.

Boldface indicates interleague games. All-Star Game is on July 17 in Washington, D.C.



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NATIONAL LEAGUE EAST

ROOKIES TO WATCH



RONALD ACUNA

Ronald Acuna, Braves, OF

At age 19 in 2017, Acuna climbed from high Class-A Florida to Triple-A Gwinnett—and improved his hitting percentages at each level. He hit .344/.393/.548 in 54 games for Gwinnett, and finished the year at .325/.374/.522 with 31 doubles, 21 homers and 44 steals in 139 games. Although he also tore it up in the Arizona Fall League, Acuna could start the year back at Gwinnett, but should soon patrol left field for Atlanta as a 20-year-old. He's a legitimate five-tool prospect.

J.P. Crawford, Phillies, SS

A 2013 first-round pick, Crawford climbed quickly through the system and reached Double-A Reading in 2015 at age 20. He's a fluid, athletic defender, but his offensive progress slowed at higher levels. While hitting .250/.349/.339 in the high minors in 2016, he demonstrated impressive plate patience, drawing 72 walks in 123 games. He showed more power at Triple-A Lehigh Valley last season, hitting .243/.351/.405 with 15 homers. With the Phillies in September, he batted .214 (15-for-70) with 16 walks (.356), setting the stage to take over at short in 2018.

Jorge Alfaro, Phillies, C

Acquired from Texas in 2015's Cole Hamels trade, Alfaro inched closer to the majors with an impressive Double-A season in 2016. Triple-A hurlers gave him more trouble last season, when he hit .241/.291/.358 with seven homers and a 113-16 K-walk ratio for Triple-A Lehigh Valley. He must demonstrate more patience at the plate, but showed promising power in a late-season call-up. In 29 games with the Phillies, he stroked six doubles and five homers, good for an .875 OPS. He's poised to take over catching duties this spring.

Lewis Brinson, Marlins, OF

Acquired in the deal that shipped Christian Yelich to Milwaukee, Brinson is a good bet to secure a starting job for Miami this spring. The athletic Brinson, a power-speed prospect, batted .331/.400/.562 for Triple-A Colorado Springs in 2017, collecting 22 doubles and 13 homers in just 76 games. His brief midseason debut with the Brewers didn't go as well (.106/.236/.277 in 21 games), but he should bring some excitement to Miami this season. He may play alongside less-heralded rookie outfielders Magneuris Sierra and Braxton Lee.

Luiz Gohara, Braves, LHP

An inexperienced Atlanta rotation endured growing pains in 2017, though Gohara—the first of a few elite pitching prospects still on the way—debuted in September. In five starts, the 21-year-old lefty pitched impressively against Philadelphia and Washington. At the three highest minor-league levels in 2017, he posted a 2.98 ERA and a 147-44 K-walk ratio in 123.2 innings. Gohara excelled at Double-A Mississippi, as did two other highly regarded young hurlers, LHP Kolby Allard and RHP Mike Soroka. Both could make it to Atlanta as well.



BIG TOTALS BEFORE AGE 25

Bryce Harper of the Nationals is one of eight players in MLB history to club 150 or more homers and score at least 500 runs before the age of 25.

Player	HR	R
Mel Ott	176	680
Jimmie Foxx	174	612
Mickey Mantle	173	642
Ken Griffey Jr.	172	518
Alex Rodriguez	172	578
Albert Pujols	160	500
Mike Trout	160	565
Bryce Harper	150	507



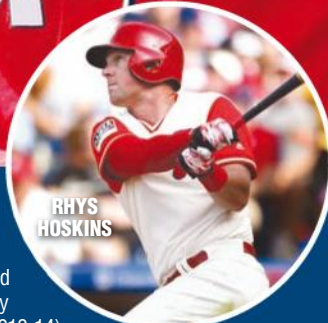
KEN GRIFFEY JR.

- Atlanta first baseman **Freddie Freeman** missed a chance to tie Chipper Jones for most 40-double seasons in Braves history with three. Freeman finished 2017 with 35 two-baggers despite missing 45 games due to injury. The only players with multiple 40-double seasons in club history are Jones (3), Freeman (2), Tommy Holmes (2), Hank Aaron (2), Marcus Giles (2) and Martin Prado (2).

- Twelve pitchers in Mets history recorded a 200-strikeout year, a feat accomplished 27 times. Last season, **Jacob deGrom** became the fourth Mets pitcher to have two or more 200-K seasons—joining Tom Seaver (9), Dwight Gooden (4) and David Cone (4). DeGrom's 239 strikeouts in 2017 rank ninth in team annals.

BRYCE HARPER

AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh



RHYS HOSKINS

AP Photo/Laurence Kesterson



JACOB DEGROM

AP Photo/Bill Kostroun

DID YOU KNOW... Max Scherzer of the Nationals became the 10th pitcher in MLB history to win consecutive Cy Young awards? He was honored in 2016 and 2017 to join Sandy Koufax (1965-66), Denny McLain (1968-69), Jim Palmer (1975-76), Roger Clemens (1986-87 and 1997-98), Greg Maddux (1992-95), Pedro Martinez (1999-2000), Randy Johnson (1999-2002), Tim Lincecum (2008-09) and Clayton Kershaw (2013-14).

DID YOU KNOW... last season Rhys Hoskins of the Phillies clubbed 18 home runs in his first 50 MLB games? Hoskins is one of five players to hit as many as 17 homers in his first 50 games, joining Gary Sanchez of the Yankees (19 in 2016), Cody Bellinger of the Dodgers (19 in 2017), Wally Berger of the Braves (18 in 1930), and Jose Abreu of the White Sox (17 in 2014).

ATLANTA BRAVES

World Series Titles: 3
Pennants: 9
Division Titles: 17
Wins: 10,510
Losses: 10,522
100-W Seasons: 8
100-L Seasons: 13



HANK AARON

MIAMI MARLINS

World Series Titles: 2
Pennants: 2
Division Titles: 0
Wins: 1,870
Losses: 2,111
100-W Seasons: 0
100-L Seasons: 2



GIANCARLO STANTON

NEW YORK METS

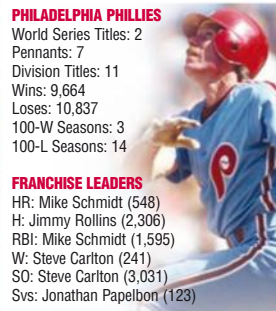
World Series Titles: 2
Pennants: 5
Division Titles: 6
Wins: 4,285
Losses: 4,647
100-W Seasons: 3
100-L Seasons: 6



TOM SEAVER

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES

World Series Titles: 2
Pennants: 7
Division Titles: 11
Wins: 9,664
Losses: 10,837
100-W Seasons: 3
100-L Seasons: 14



MIKE SCHMIDT

WASHINGTON NATIONALS

World Series Titles: 0
Pennants: 0
Division Titles: 5
Wins: 3,802
Losses: 4,000
100-W Seasons: 0
100-L Seasons: 4



RYAN ZIMMERMAN

FRANCHISE LEADERS

HR: Hank Aaron (733)
H: Hank Aaron (3,600)
RBI: Hank Aaron (2,202)
W: Warren Spahn (356)
SO: John Smoltz (3,011)
Svs: Craig Kimbrel (186)

FRANCHISE LEADERS

HR: Giancarlo Stanton (267)
H: Luis Castillo (1,273)
RBI: Giancarlo Stanton (672)
W: Ricky Nolasco (81)
SO: Ricky Nolasco (1,001)
Svs: Robb Nen (108)

FRANCHISE LEADERS

HR: Darryl Strawberry (252)
H: David Wright (1,777)
RBI: David Wright (970)
W: Tom Seaver (198)
SO: Tom Seaver (2,541)
Svs: John Franco (276)

FRANCHISE LEADERS

HR: Mike Schmidt (548)
H: Jimmy Rollins (2,306)
RBI: Mike Schmidt (1,595)
W: Steve Carlton (241)
SO: Steve Carlton (3,031)
Svs: Jonathan Papelbon (123)

FRANCHISE LEADERS

HR: Ryan Zimmerman (251)
H: Tim Lincecum (1,694)
RBI: Ryan Zimmerman (937)
W: Steve Rogers (158)
SO: Steve Rogers (1,621)
Svs: Jeff Reardon (152)

David Durochik/SportPics

AP Photo/Lynne Stadky

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AP Photo/Alex Brandon

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION PREVIEW

By Carroll Walton

It's not the prettiest time for the National League East. The Braves, Phillies and Marlins are all in varying degrees of a rebuild, and the Mets haven't proven to anybody in recent years that they can stay healthy. The Nationals are left as the only legitimate contenders—at least on paper—but they have shown a penchant for caving when it matters in October.

Gabe Kapler of the Phillies. And like the others, Martinez has no previous big-league managerial experience. The Braves meanwhile have a new general manager and the Marlins a new ownership group, which is just further evidence of the overhaul going on in the N.L. East.

The Braves are trying to rebuild their reputation after general manager John Coppolella was fired and banned

The Nationals are the expected favorites to win the division with the rebuilding Braves, rehabbing Mets and improving Phillies fighting for respectability and the Marlins treading water to stay afloat

MAX SCHERZER

Photo Credit Here



So, expect the Nationals to win their fifth division title in the past seven years, but the World Series? After losing four National League Division Series matches in that time, the Nationals have probably learned to stop talking about “World Series or bust.” Maybe it’s a good thing that 2018 is Bryce Harper’s last season before he’s eligible for free agency and “will he or won’t he re-sign” questions can dominate the day-to-day conversation.

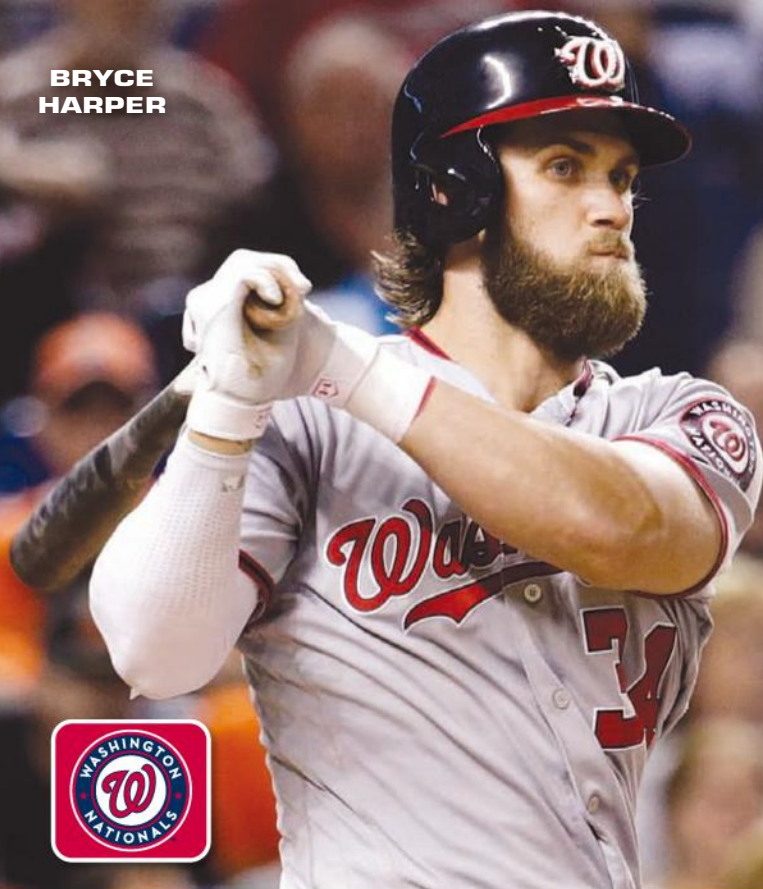
The Nationals haven’t made many changes to their roster and don’t need to after winning the division by 20 games in 2017. Their big move was firing Dusty Baker and bringing in Joe Maddon protégé Dave Martinez to take over the helm.

Martinez is one of three new managers in the division this season, along with Mickey Callaway of the Mets and

from baseball for shady dealings that came to light in the international market. The Marlins are putting their fans through what might be their most brutal rebuild yet, while former Yankees captain and now chief operating officer Derek Jeter and his partner Bruce Sherman prove merciless in their payroll shedding and general upheaval within the organization.

The Braves are farther along in their rebuild than the Phillies and Marlins and figure to continue their upward trajectory, but it won’t be enough to threaten the Nationals, who are poised to win the division title handily. If healthy, the Mets could match up with anybody given their one-two pitching punch of Noah Syndergaard and Jacob deGrom, but who’s to say that will happen? **BD**

BRYCE HARPER



40-MAN ROSTER

Major-league roster on Feb. 4 • Uniform numbers subject to change

Manager: Dave Martinez (4)

Coaches: Hitting—Kevin Long (54), Joe Dillon (25), Pitching—Derek Lilliquist (38), 1B—Tim Bogar (24), 3B—Bob Henley (13), Bench—Chip Hale (10), Bullpen—Henry Blanco (35)

NO.	PITCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
70	Austin Adams	R/R	6'2"	225	5/5/91
22	A.J. Cole	R/R	6'5"	215	1/5/92
62	Sean Doolittle	L/L	6'2"	210	9/26/86
23	Erick Fedde	R/R	6'4"	180	2/25/93
30	Koda Glover	R/R	6'5"	225	4/13/93
47	Gio Gonzalez	R/L	6'0"	205	9/19/85
26	Trevor Gott	R/R	6'0"	185	8/26/92
33	Matt Grace	L/L	6'4"	215	12/14/88
27	Shawn Kelley	R/R	6'2"	230	4/26/84
21	Brandon Kintzler	R/R	6'0"	190	8/1/84
44	Ryan Madson	L/R	6'6"	225	8/28/80
57	Tanner Roark	R/R	6'2"	235	10/5/86
68	Jefry Rodriguez	R/R	6'5"	185	7/26/93
72	Enny Romero	R/L	6'3"	215	1/24/91
41	Joe Ross	R/R	6'4"	225	5/21/93
31	Max Scherzer	R/R	6'3"	210	7/27/84
36	Sammy Solis	R/L	6'5"	250	8/10/88
37	Stephen Strasburg	R/R	6'4"	235	7/20/88
51	Wander Suero	R/R	6'3"	195	9/15/91
50	Austin Voth	R/R	6'2"	215	6/26/92
NO.	CATCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
65	Raury Read	R/R	6'0"	170	10/29/93
29	Pedro Severino	R/R	6'0"	215	7/20/93
32	Matt Wieters	S/R	6'5"	230	5/21/86
NO.	INFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
17	Matt Adams	L/R	6'3"	260	8/31/88
1	Wilmer Difo	S/R	5'11"	200	4/2/92
73	Kelvin Gutierrez	R/R	6'3"	185	8/28/94
71	Jose Marmolejos	L/L	6'1"	185	1/2/93
20	Daniel Murphy	L/R	6'1"	220	4/1/85
6	Anthony Rendon	R/R	6'1"	210	6/6/90
5	Adrian Sanchez	R/R	6'0"	160	8/16/90
7	Trea Turner	R/R	6'1"	185	6/30/93
11	Ryan Zimmerman	R/R	6'3"	225	9/28/84
NO.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
9	Rafael Bautista	R/R	6'2"	165	3/8/93
2	Adam Eaton	L/L	5'8"	185	12/6/88
8	Brian Goodwin	L/R	6'0"	205	11/2/90
34	Bryce Harper	L/R	6'3"	215	10/16/92
12	Howie Kendrick	R/R	5'11"	220	7/12/83
16	Victor Robles	R/R	6'0"	185	5/19/97
45	Andrew Stevenson	L/L	6'0"	185	6/1/94
3	Michael A. Taylor	R/R	6'3"	210	3/26/91

(AP Photo/Lynne Spadky)

1. WASHINGTON NATIONALS

The Nationals' boldest move this offseason was firing Baker. Otherwise they stood largely pat, which makes sense. Their big moves figure to come next winter when Harper, Daniel Murphy and Gio Gonzalez all stand to become free agents.

As it is, the Nationals' biggest changes have been adding Matt Adams to their bench and parting ways with veteran outfielder Jayson Werth. Given his age (39) and recent injury history (played only 70 games in 2017), Werth's departure isn't a big loss. And his replacement in left field is the upgrade the Nationals were hoping to have last year: Adam Eaton, who returns from a torn anterior cruciate ligament that cost him all but April last season.

With Eaton positioned to make his mark in the leadoff spot and Trea Turner dropping to No. 2, the Nationals have eneviable speed at the top of their lineup. How much Martinez plans to take advantage of it with an aggressive run game is yet to be seen, but don't expect the adjustment period to take long. Martinez is the Nationals' sixth manger in 12 years, so their players are used to change.

Washington's rotation is still among the best in baseball

with Max Scherzer coming off back-to-back National League Cy Young awards and Stephen Strasburg hitting his stride. Strasburg proved just how big of a weapon he can be in October—with 22 strikeouts and no earned runs in 14 innings in the Division Series—so the goal is to get him back there. At age 33, Scherzer shows no signs of slowing down either.

With Ryan Madson and Sean Doolittle in the fold to start the season, the Nationals enter the season feeling good about the back of their bullpen, which is something that normally causes them angst this time of year. So, bank on the Nationals being back in the thick of things come season's end. **BD**

2018 SCHEDULE

MARCH

29, 31 @ Cin.
APRIL
 1 @ Cin.
 2, 3, 4 @ Atl.
 5, 7, 8 N.Y.
 9, 10, 11 Atl.
 12, 13, 14, 15 Col.
 16, 17, 18 @ N.Y.
 20, 21, 22 @ L.A.
 23, 24, 25 @ S.F.
 27, 28, 29 Ari.
 30 Pit.

MAY

1, 2, 3 Pit.
 4, 5, 6 Phi.
 7, 8, 9 @ S.D.
 10, 11, 12, 13 @ Ari.
15, 16 N.Y.
 18, 19, 20 L.A.
 21, 22, 23 S.D.
 25, 26, 27 @ Mia.
28, 29, 30 @ Bal.
 31 @ Atl.

JUNE

1, 2, 3 @ Atl.
5, 6 T.B.
 8, 9, 10 S.F.
12, 13 @ N.Y.
15, 16, 17 @ Tor.
19, 20, 21 Bal.
 22, 23, 24 Phi.
25, 26 T.B.
 28, 29, 30 @ Phi.

JULY

1 @ Phi.
2, 3, 4 Bos.
 5, 6, 7, 8 Mia.
 9, 10, 11 @ Pit.
 12, 13, 14, 15 @ N.Y.
 20, 21, 22 Atl.
 23, 24, 25 @ Mil.
 26, 27, 28, 29 @ Mia.
 31 N.Y.

AUGUST

1 N.Y.
 2, 3, 4, 5 Cin.
 7, 8, 9 Atl.
 10, 11, 12 @ Chi.
 13, 14, 15, 16 @ St.L.
 17, 18, 19 Mia.
 21, 22, 23 Phi.
 24, 25, 26 @ N.Y.
 27, 28, 29 Phi.
 31 Mil.

SEPTEMBER

1, 2 Mil.
 3, 4, 5 St.L.
 6, 7, 8, 9 Chi.
 10, 11, 12 @ Phi.
 14, 15, 16 @ Atl.
 17, 18 @ Mia.
 20, 21, 22, 23 N.Y.
 24, 25, 26 Mia.
 28, 29, 30 @ Col.

Boldface indicates interleague games. All-Star Game is on July 17 in Washington, D.C.



**FREDDIE
FREEMAN**

40-MAN ROSTER

Major-league roster on Feb. 4 • Uniform numbers subject to change

Manager: Brian Snitker (34)

Coaches: Hitting—Kevin Seitzer (28), Jose Castro (59), Pitching—Chuck Hernandez (33), 1B—Eric Young (48), 3B—Ron Washington (37), Bench—Walt Weiss (--), Bullpen—Marty Reed (32), Catching—Sal Fasano (13)

NO.	PITCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
65	Jesse Biddle	L/L	6'5"	230	10/22/91
36	Aaron Blair	R/R	6'4"	250	5/26/92
57	Rex Brothers	L/L	6'0"	210	12/18/87
62	Mauricio Cabrera	R/R	6'3"	245	9/22/93
55	Grant Dayton	L/L	6'2"	215	11/25/87
26	Mike Foltynewicz	R/R	6'4"	220	10/7/91
39	Sam Freeman	R/L	5'11"	180	6/24/87
61	Max Fried	L/L	6'4"	200	1/18/94
64	Luiz Gohara	L/L	6'3"	210	7/31/96
66	Anyelo Gomez	R/R	6'1"	185	3/1/93
56	Jason Hursh	R/R	6'3"	200	10/2/91
19	Scott Kazmir	L/L	6'0"	195	1/24/84
68	Jacob Lindgren	L/L	5'11"	210	3/12/93
32	Brandon McCarthy	R/R	6'7"	235	7/7/83
54	Adam McCreery	L/L	6'8"	195	12/31/92
67	A.J. Minter	L/L	6'0"	205	9/2/93
60	Akeel Morris	R/R	6'1"	195	11/14/92
51	Sean Newcomb	L/L	6'5"	255	6/12/93
52	Jose Ramirez	R/R	6'1"	215	1/21/90
61	Josh Ravin	R/R	6'4"	215	1/21/88
75	Ricardo Sanchez	L/L	5'11"	170	4/11/97
50	Lucas Sims	R/R	6'2"	220	5/10/94
49	Julio Teheran	R/R	6'2"	205	1/27/91
38	Arodys Vizcaino	R/R	6'0"	230	11/13/90
69	Chase Whitley	R/R	6'4"	220	6/14/89
63	Dan Winkler	R/R	6'3"	205	2/2/90
45	Matt Wisler	R/R	6'3"	205	9/12/92

NO.	CATCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
25	Tyler Flowers	R/R	6'4"	260	1/24/86
24	Kurt Suzuki	R/R	5'11"	205	10/4/83

NO.	INFELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
1	Ozzie Albies	S/R	5'9"	160	1/7/97
17	Johan Camargo	S/R	6'0"	160	12/13/93
37	Charlie Culberson	R/R	6'0"	200	4/10/89
5	Freddie Freeman	L/R	6'5"	220	9/12/89
14	Rio Ruiz	L/R	6'1"	230	5/22/94
7	Dansby Swanson	R/R	6'1"	190	2/11/94

NO.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
16	Lane Adams	R/R	6'3"	220	11/13/89
11	Ender Inciarte	L/L	5'11"	190	10/29/90
22	Nick Markakis	L/L	6'1"	215	11/17/83
20	Preston Tucker	L/L	6'0"	215	7/6/90

(AP Photo/John Bazemore)

2. ATLANTA BRAVES

The Braves are eager to get back on the field, if for no other reason than to focus on the game after a tumultuous offseason for their front office. The Braves were dogged by an investigation into their international scouting practices and embarrassed by penalties levied against Coppolella and advisor Gordon Blakeley. The fallout included forfeiture of 13 international prospects and a lifetime ban for Coppolella, a black eye for an organization that prides itself on doing things right.

Former club president John Hart departed in the fallout, leaving the Braves to regroup with former Blue Jays general manager Alex Anthopoulos at the helm. The 40-year-old cut his teeth as the new general manager by trading Matt Kemp to open up an outfield spot for five-tool prospect Ronald Acuna and free up salary for a free-agent spending spree next winter. The only Braves with guaranteed contracts past 2018 are Freddie Freeman, Julio Teheran and Ender Inciarte.

In the meantime, the Braves are in their fourth season of rebuilding, second in new SunTrust Park. In the early 1990s, the Braves rebuilt around strong starting pitching—both homegrown and acquired. This time, reworking their rotation has proved a tougher task. Julio Teheran returns as de facto ace, and Sean Newcomb and Mike Foltynewicz broke through last season to prove their major-league potential.

The Braves acquired Brandon McCarthy in the Kemp deal, which gives them some veteran stability, but they are still waiting for the next wave of big-league talent to emerge.

The group should include Luiz Gohara and local Atlanta product Lucas Sims in the short term, and prospects Max Fried, Kolby Allard and Mike Soroka before the season is said and done.

The Braves offense centers once again on Freeman, who was having a comic book-type season last year before he fractured his wrist. If the All-Star first baseman can put together a complete season, an MVP award is well within his grasp. **BD**

2018 SCHEDULE

MARCH	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
29, 30, 31 @ N.Y.	1, 2, 3 @ S.F.	1, 2, 3 @ S.D.	1 @ St.L.	1 Mia.	1, 2 Pit.
2, 3, 4 Wash.	4, 5, 6 @ T.B.	4, 5, 6 @ S.D.	2, 3, 4 @ N.Y.	2, 3, 4, 5 @ N.Y.	3, 4, 5 Bos.
6, 7, 8 @ Col.	8, 9 @ Mia.	8, 9, 10 @ L.A.	5, 6, 7, 8 @ Mil.	7, 8, 9 @ Wash.	6, 7, 8, 9 @ Ari.
9, 10, 11 @ Wash.	10, 11, 12, 13 Chi.	12, 13 N.Y.	10, 11 Tor.	10, 11, 12 Mil.	10, 11, 12 @ S.F.
13, 14, 15 @ Chi.	15, 16, 17 Mia.	14, 15, 16, 17 S.D.	13, 14, 15 Ari.	13, 14, 15 Mia.	14, 15, 16 Wash.
16, 17, 18 Phi.	18, 19, 20 Mia.	19, 20 @ Tor.	20, 21, 22 @ Wash.	16, 17, 18, 19 Col.	17, 18, 19 St.L.
19, 20, 21, 22 N.Y.	21, 22, 23 @ Phi.	22, 23, 24 Bal.	23, 24 @ Mia.	20, 21, 22 @ Pit.	20, 21, 22, 23 Phi.
23, 24, 25, 26 @ Cin.	25, 26, 27 @ Bos.	25, 26, 27 Cin.	26, 27, 28, 29 L.A.	23, 24, 25, 26 @ Mia.	25, 26, 27 @ N.Y.
27, 28, 29 @ Phi.	28, 29, 30 N.Y.	29, 30 @ St.L.	30, 31 Mia.	28, 29 T.B.	28, 29, 30 @ Phi.
	31 Wash.			31 Pit.	

Boldface indicates interleague games. All-Star Game is on July 17 in Washington, D.C.



40-MAN ROSTER

Major-league roster on Feb. 4 • Uniform numbers subject to change

Manager: Mickey Callaway (36)
Coaches: Hitting—Pat Roessler (6), Tom Slater (56), Pitching—Dave Eiland (58), 1B—Ruben Amaro Jr. (20), 3B—Glenn Sherlock (53), Bench—Gary Disarcina (10)

NO.	PITCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
62	Tyler Bashlor	R/R	6'0"	197	4/16/93
63	Gerson Bautista	R/L	6'2"	170	5/31/95
39	Jerry Blevins	L/L	6'6"	190	9/6/83
43	Jamie Callahan	R/R	6'2"	230	8/24/94
48	Jacob deGrom	L/R	6'4"	180	6/19/88
27	Jeury's Familia	R/R	6'3"	240	10/10/89
64	Chris Flexen	R/R	6'3"	250	7/1/94
65	Robert Gsellman	R/R	6'4"	205	7/18/93
33	Matt Harvey	R/R	6'4"	215	3/27/89
67	Seth Lugo	R/R	6'4"	225	11/17/89
32	Steven Matz	R/L	6'2"	200	5/29/91
68	Marcos Molina	R/R	6'3"	206	3/8/95
50	Rafael Montero	R/R	6'0"	185	10/17/90
55	Corey Oswalt	R/R	6'5"	250	9/3/93
44	AJ Ramos	R/R	5'10"	200	9/20/86
35	Jacob Rhame	R/R	6'1"	215	3/16/93
47	Hansel Robles	R/R	5'11"	185	8/13/90
51	Paul Sewald	R/R	6'3"	207	5/26/90
38	Anthony Swarzak	R/R	6'4"	215	9/10/85
34	Noah Syndergaard	L/R	6'6"	240	8/29/92
45	Zack Wheeler	L/R	6'4"	195	5/30/90

NO.	CATCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
18	Travis d'Arnaud	R/R	6'2"	210	2/10/89
77	Tomas Nido	R/R	6'0"	210	4/12/94
26	Kevin Plawecki	R/R	6'2"	210	2/26/91

NO.	INFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
13	Asdrubal Cabrera	S/R	6'0"	205	11/13/85
2	Gavin Cecchini	R/R	6'2"	196	12/22/93
4	Wilmer Flores	R/R	6'3"	205	8/6/91
23	Adrian Gonzalez	L/L	6'2"	215	5/8/82
60	Luis Guillorme	L/R	5'9"	199	9/27/94
7	Jose Reyes	S/R	6'0"	195	6/11/83
15	Matt Reynolds	R/R	6'1"	198	12/3/90
54	T.J. Rivera	R/R	6'1"	203	10/27/88
1	Amed Rosario	R/R	6'2"	189	11/20/95
22	Dominic Smith	L/L	6'0"	239	6/15/95
5	David Wright	R/R	6'0"	205	12/20/82

NO.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
19	Jay Bruce	L/L	6'3"	225	4/3/87
52	Yoenis Cespedes	R/R	5'10"	220	10/18/85
30	Michael Conforto	L/R	6'1"	215	3/1/93
12	Juan Lagares	R/R	6'1"	215	3/17/89
9	Brandon Nimmo	L/R	6'3"	207	3/27/93

(AP Photo/Frank Franklin II)

3. NEW YORK METS

Give the Mets credit. They are looking for creative ways to solve their pitching problems of the past two years. They hired former Cleveland Indians pitching coach Mickey Callaway as their new manager after accepting Terry Collins' resignation. They also strengthened their bullpen in an attempt to take the heat off their powerful but injury-prone rotation. But the 2018 season still boils down to whether their talented young pitching staff can stay healthy. Last year, only Jacob deGrom managed to do that.

When healthy, the Mets' 1-2 pitching punch of Syndergaard and deGrom matches up well with anybody, but that's a big fat "if" for a Mets team decimated by injuries in recent years. Syndergaard missed five months last season with a torn lat muscle and pitched just three innings in his September return, albeit three scoreless. He is one of only two starters—including deGrom—the Mets figure they can count on to pitch deep into games. They plan to limit Steven Matz, Zack Wheeler and Matt Harvey to a couple of turns through the lineup and then turn to the bullpen.

The Mets bolstered their bullpen with the addition of former Marlins closer A.J. Ramos last summer and free agent Anthony Swarzak this winter. Dynamic closer Jeury's Familia returns after missing most of last season following blood-clot surgery, and Jerry Blevins has emerged as a top lefty specialist. Together they should give Callaway the capacity to limit his starters' innings, which might be the best way they stay healthy.

deGrom is coming off a career year in terms of wins (15), starts (31) and innings pitched (201.1 innings). No other

Mets starter pitched half as many innings in 2017.

The Mets re-signed outfielder Jay Bruce, which gives them a nice offensive complement to Yoenis Cespedes until Michael Conforto returns from shoulder surgery later in April. Otherwise, this lineup is young. Shortstop Amed Rosario and first baseman Dominic Smith debuted last season and will be handed full-time jobs this spring. Smith's debut wasn't great, but the Mets signed Adrian Gonzalez to provide some insurance and a veteran presence. **BD**

2018 SCHEDULE

MARCH	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
29, 31	St.L.	1, 2, 3	Att.	1	@ Wash.
		4, 5, 6	Col.	2, 3, 4, 5	Atl.
		7, 8, 9	@ Cin.	6, 7, 8	Cin.
APRIL	St.L.	11, 12, 13	@ Phi.	10, 11, 12	@ Mia.
1	Phi.	15, 16	Tor.	14, 15	@ Bal.
2, 3, 4	@ Wash.	18, 19, 20	Ari.	16, 17, 18, 19	@ Phi.
5, 7, 8	@ Mia.	21, 22, 23	Mia.	20, 21, 22, 23	S.F.
9, 10, 11	Mil.	24, 25, 26, 27	@ Mil.	24, 25, 26	Wash.
13, 14, 15	Wash.	28, 29, 30	@ Atl.	27, 28, 29	@ Chi.
16, 17, 18	@ Atl.	31	Chi.	31	@ S.F.
19, 20, 21, 22	@ St.L.				
24, 25, 26	@ S.D.				
27, 28, 29					

Boldface indicates interleague games. All-Star Game is on July 17 in Washington, D.C.

RHYS HOSKINS

40-MAN ROSTER

Major-league roster on Feb. 4 • Uniform numbers subject to change

Manager: Gabe Kapler (22)

Coaches: Hitting—John Mallee (8), Pedro Guerrero (58), Pitching—Rick Kranitz (39), Chris Young (45), 1B—Jose Flores (3), 3B—Dusty Wathan (62), Bench—Rob Thomson (59), Bullpen—Jim Gott (35)

NO.	PITCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
63	Drew Anderson	R/R	6'3"	185	3/22/94
64	Victor Arano	R/R	6'2"	200	2/7/95
52	Zac Curtis	L/L	5'9"	190	7/4/92
65	S. Dominguez	R/R	6'1"	185	11/25/94
56	Zach Eflin	R/R	6'6"	215	4/8/94
48	Jerad Eickhoff	R/R	6'4"	245	7/2/90
57	Luis Garcia	R/R	6'3"	230	1/30/87
40	Tommy Hunter	R/R	6'3"	250	7/3/86
66	Franklyn Kilome	R/R	6'6"	175	6/25/95
59	Mark Leiter	R/R	6'0"	195	3/13/91
49	Ben Lively	R/R	6'4"	190	3/5/92
55	Hoby Milner	L/L	6'2"	165	1/13/91
46	Adam Morgan	L/L	6'1"	200	2/27/90
50	Hector Neris	R/R	6'2"	215	6/14/89
93	Pat Neshek	S/R	6'3"	220	9/4/80
27	Aaron Nola	R/R	6'2"	195	6/4/93
51	Ricardo Pinto	R/R	6'0"	165	1/20/94
43	Nick Pivetta	R/R	6'5"	220	2/14/93
61	Edubray Ramos	R/R	6'0"	160	12/19/92
53	Yacksel Rios	R/R	6'3"	185	6/27/93
70	Ranger Suarez	L/L	6'1"	180	8/26/95
72	Jose Taveras	L/R	6'4"	210	11/6/93
44	Jake Thompson	R/R	6'4"	225	1/31/94
28	Vince Velasquez	R/R	6'3"	205	6/7/92

NO.	CATCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
38	Jorge Alfaro	R/R	6'2"	225	6/11/93
34	Andrew Knapp	S/R	6'1"	195	11/9/91
29	Cameron Rupp	R/R	6'2"	260	9/28/88

NO.	INFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
67	Eliezer Alvarez	L/R	5'11"	165	10/15/94
2	J.P. Crawford	R/R	6'2"	180	1/11/95
7	Maikel Franco	R/R	6'1"	165	8/26/92
16	Cesar Hernandez	S/R	5'10"	210	5/23/90
19	Tommy Joseph	R/R	6'1"	255	7/16/91
41	Carlos Santana	S/R	5'11"	210	4/8/86
76	Jesmeul Valentin	S/R	5'9"	180	5/12/94

NO.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
23	Aaron Altherr	R/R	6'5"	215	1/14/91
77	Dylan Cozens	L/L	6'6"	235	5/31/94
37	Odubel Herrera	L/R	5'11"	205	12/29/91
17	Rhys Hoskins	R/R	6'4"	225	3/17/93
24	Roman Quinn	S/R	5'10"	170	5/14/93
5	Nick Williams	L/L	6'3"	195	9/8/93

(AP Photo/Matt Slocum)



4. PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES

After shedding payroll and going young for the past few years, the Phillies made their first big move in the opposite direction, signing Carlos Santana to a three-year \$60-million contract this winter. He gives the Phillies a switch-hitting power first baseman and their most established corner infielder since Ryan Howard manned first base.

It gives a lineup with a lot of moving parts some sense of identity, and Phillies fans a glimpse of what could come next winter when Harper and Manny Machado hit free agency. In the meantime, the Phillies have some young players poised to take the next step—and a new manager eager to prove himself despite his unconventional route to the job.

Kapler, a former outfielder and health and fitness buff, was working as player development director for the Dodgers—which the Phillies think meshes with all the young talent they have—and has managed only one season at the Class-A level. But now he's got the keys to a lineup with the potential to produce at its highest level since the late-2000s.

The young players to watch include left fielder Rhys Hoskins, who hit 18 homers in 50 games last year, and shortstop J.P. Crawford, whose path to play every day was cleared when the Phillies traded Freddy Galvis to the Padres. Crawford is a wild card offensively, but should bring a capable glove.

Third baseman Maikel Franco has yet to live up to his billing, hitting just .230 with 24 homers last season, and he

followed it up by getting suspended one game in the Dominican Winter League, reportedly for late-night partying. The longer his struggles persist, the more likely it is that Phillies pursue Machado next winter.

For now, though, the rotation is where the Phillies have their biggest holes to fill, and they hoped to add a starter before spring training. Aaron Nola was their only starter to provide much consistency in 2017, posting career highs in wins (12) and innings pitched (168). Jerad Eickhoff and Vince Velasquez have battled injuries and inconsistency, which means Kapler could resort to creative use of his bullpen to make up for their middle-inning struggles. **BD**

2018 SCHEDULE

MARCH

29, 30, 31 @ Atl.

APRIL

2, 3, 4 @ N.Y.
5, 7, 8 Mia.
9, 10, 11 Cin.
13, 14, 15 @ T.B.
16, 17, 18 @ Atl.
19, 20, 21, 22 Pit.
24, 25, 26 Ari.
27, 28, 29 Atl.
30 @ Mia.

MAY

1, 2 @ Mia.
4, 5, 6 @ Wash.
7, 8, 9, 10 S.F.
11, 12, 13 N.Y.
15, 16 @ Bal.
17, 18, 19, 20 @ St.L.
21, 22, 23 Atl.
25, 26, 27 Tor.
28, 29, 30, 31 @ L.A.

JUNE

1, 2, 3 @ S.F.
5, 6, 7 @ Chi.
8, 9, 10 Mil.
12, 13, 14 Col.
15, 16, 17 @ Mil.
18, 19, 20 St.L.
22, 23, 24 @ Wash.
25, 26, 27 N.Y.
28, 29, 30 Wash.

JULY

1 Wash.
3, 4 Bal.
6, 7, 8 @ Pit.
9, 10, 11 @ N.Y.
13, 14, 15 @ Mia.
20, 21, 22 S.D.
23, 24, 25 L.A.
26, 27, 28, 29 @ Cin.
30, 31 @ Bos.

AUGUST

2, 3, 4, 5 Mia.
6, 7, 8 @ Ari.
10, 11, 12 @ S.D.
14, 15 Bos.
16, 17, 18, 19 N.Y.
21, 22, 23 @ Wash.
24, 25, 26 @ Tor.
27, 28, 29 Wash.
31 Chi.

SEPTEMBER

1, 2 Chi.
3, 4, 5 @ Mia.
7, 8, 9 @ N.Y.
10, 11, 12 Wash.
14, 15, 16 Mia.
17, 18, 19 N.Y.
20, 21, 22, 23 @ Atl.
24, 25, 26, 27 @ Col.
28, 29, 30 Atl.

Boldface indicates interleague games. All-Star Game is on July 17 in Washington, D.C.

**JUSTIN
BOUR**



40-MAN ROSTER

Major-league roster on Feb. 4 • Uniform numbers subject to change

Manager: Don Mattingly (8)

Coaches: Hitting—Mike Pagliarulo (6), Frank Menechino (4), Pitching—Juan Nieves (47), 1B—Perry Hill (7), 3B—Fred Gonzalez (33), Bench—Tim Wallach (38), Bullpen—Dean Treanor (24), Catching—Brian Schneider (23)

NO.	PITCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
22	Sandy Alcantara	R/R	6'4"	170	9/7/95
46	Kyle Barraclough	R/R	6'3"	225	5/23/90
54	Wei-Yin Chen	R/L	6'0"	200	7/21/85
61	Adam Conley	L/L	6'3"	200	5/24/90
75	Miguel Del Pozo	L/L	6'1"	180	10/14/92
43	Odrisamer Despaigne	R/R	6'0"	200	4/4/87
49	Brian Ellington	R/R	6'3"	215	8/4/90
66	Jarlin Garcia	L/L	6'3"	215	1/18/93
77	Merandy Gonzalez	R/R	6'0"	216	10/9/95
48	Severino Gonzalez	R/R	6'2"	155	9/28/92
53	Brett Graves	R/R	6'1"	170	1/30/93
72	Tayron Guerrero	R/R	6'8"	210	1/9/91
57	Elieser Hernandez	R/R	6'0"	210	5/3/95
78	Pablo Lopez	R/R	6'3"	200	3/7/96
70	James Needy	R/R	6'6"	230	3/30/91
20	Justin Nicolino	L/L	6'3"	195	11/22/91
50	Chris O'Grady	R/L	6'4"	225	4/17/90
76	Dillon Peters	L/L	5'9"	195	8/31/92
31	Caleb Smith	R/L	6'2"	205	7/28/91
71	Drew Steckenrider	R/R	6'5"	215	1/10/91
58	Dan Straily	R/R	6'2"	220	12/1/88
25	Junichi Tazawa	R/R	5'11"	200	6/6/86
62	Jose Urena	R/R	6'2"	200	9/12/91
64	Nick Wittgren	R/R	6'2"	210	5/29/91
29	Brad Ziegler	R/R	6'4"	220	10/10/79

NO.	CATCHERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
73	Austin Nola	R/R	6'0"	195	12/28/89
11	J.T. Realmuto	R/R	6'1"	210	3/18/91
17	Chad Wallach	R/R	6'3"	230	11/4/91

NO.	INFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
55	Brian Anderson	R/R	6'3"	185	5/19/93
41	Justin Bour	R/R	6'3"	265	5/28/88
13	Starlin Castro	R/R	6'2"	230	3/24/90
30	Garrett Cooper	R/R	6'6"	230	12/25/90
32	Derek Dietrich	L/R	6'0"	205	7/18/89
14	Martin Prado	R/R	6'0"	215	10/27/83
39	JT Riddle	L/R	6'1"	180	10/12/91
19	Miguel Rojas	R/R	5'11"	195	2/24/89
18	Tomas Telis	S/R	5'8"	220	6/18/91

NO.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	HT	WT	BORN
9	Lewis Brinson	R/R	6'3"	195	5/8/94
74	Braxton Lee	L/R	5'10"	185	8/23/93
34	Magneuris Sierra	L/L	5'11"	160	4/7/96

(AP Photo/Gaston De Cardenas)

5. MIAMI MARLINS

Marlins fans have endured more than their share of rebuilds, most notably after World Series wins in 1997 and 2003, but they don't have any lingering vibes of postseason celebrations to take the sting out of this gut job.

This salary slash just cost them Giancarlo Stanton. Their superstar right fielder was traded to the New York Yankees, taking his National League MVP Award, major-league-leading 59 homers and \$265-million contract with him.

Gone also are Marcell Ozuna in a trade to the St. Louis Cardinals, Dee Gordon to the Seattle Mariners, and Christian Yelich to the Milwaukee Brewers. Marlins fans are steeling themselves to the possibility that before it's all said and done, J.T. Realmuto could be traded, too. This just piles on heartbreak for a fan base that mourned the death of superstar pitcher Jose Fernandez in a boating accident in 2016.

Now in its seventh year at Marlins Park, the team stands to suffer its ninth straight losing season. While the franchise continues to be financially enticing for owners, it's losing already-minimal appeal to the fans. The Marlins have finished last in attendance for 12 of the past 13 years. The biggest attraction now seems to be the target of the fans' dismay: one fan started "Project Sunshine," creating a petition to have Derek Jeter's ownership group removed.

Mega-agent Scott Boras recently referred to the Marlins as a "pawn shop."

A couple of things to watch for between the lines this season includes the play of Starlin Castro at second base—he begrudgingly comes to South Florida from the Yankees in the Stanton trade. First baseman Justin Bour is the Marlins' best power threat left now, with Ozuna and Stanton gone. And diehard fans, if there is such a thing, will want to keep an eye on 22-year-old right-hander Sandy Alcantara, now the Marlins' No. 1 overall prospect. The right-hander with a 100-mph fastball was the centerpiece of the Ozuna trade with St. Louis. **BD**

2018 SCHEDULE

	MARCH	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
29, 30, 31	Chi.	1, 2	Phi.	1, 2, 3	N.Y.	1, 2
APRIL		4, 5, 6	@ Cin.	5, 6, 7	T.B.	@ Phi.
1	Chi.	7, 8, 9	@ Chi.	8, 9, 10	@ Wash.	St.L.
2, 3	Bos.	10, 11, 12, 13	Atl.	11, 12, 13, 14	Mil.	N.Y.
5, 7, 8	@ Phi.	15, 16, 17	L.A.	15, 16, 17	Phi.	@ Atl.
9, 10, 11	N.Y.	18, 19, 20	@ Atl.	18, 19, 20	@ T.B.	@ Wash.
13, 14, 15	Pit.	21, 22, 23	@ N.Y.	22, 23, 24	Atl.	21, 22
16, 17	@ N.Y.	25, 26, 27	Wash.	25, 26, 27, 28	Wash.	23, 24, 25, 26
19, 20, 21, 22	@ Mil.	28, 29, 30, 31	@ S.D.	29, 30	@ Atl.	28, 29
23, 24, 25	@ L.A.					31
27, 28, 29	Col.					Tor.
30	Phi.					Tor.

Boldface indicates interleague games. All-Star Game is on July 17 in Washington, D.C.

THE GAME I'LL NEVER FORGET

By

CHRIS BOSIO

As Told To Bruce Levine
and Joel Bierig

Former Mariner recalls his no-hitter against the Red Sox at the Kingdome in 1993, working on three days' rest and battling illness

It was the bottom of the eighth inning before Chris Bosio noticed that his Seattle Mariners teammates had been avoiding him in the dugout. Was it because Bosio, their starting pitcher, had the flu and couldn't keep anything down—except the Boston Red Sox, who trailed 7-0 and would lose by that score?

Bosio beckoned right fielder Jay Buhner, the only player remotely near him on the bench.

"Dude, what's going on?" Bosio asked. "How come nobody's sitting down here next to us?"

"Are you serious?" Buhner replied. "Look up at the scoreboard."

"It was like I literally woke up out of coma," Bosio, 54, says now. "I looked up and saw we had a no-hitter going."

To his dying day, Bosio will say "we," because in his mind it was a team effort—the no-hit game he threw against the Red Sox in Seattle's Kingdome on April 22, 1993, the last no-hit game anyone has thrown against the mighty Bosox.

Never mind that Bosio, a gutsy 30-year-old right-hander, had bailed out a struggling rotation by pitching on three days' rest. Nor that he woke up feeling worse than a seasick mariner—and an ancient one, at that.

"My name's on there for a no-hitter," says Bosio, who retired 27 consecutive Red Sox after walking the first two batters of the game. "But I always use the word 'we,' because it was a special moment for all of us."

Indeed, Bosio counted more stellar defensive plays behind him—his vivid descriptions outdo instant replay—than he did strikeouts. He fanned only four batters as the Red Sox were no-hit for the first time since July 4, 1983—when the Yankees' Dave Righetti did the job on them in New York. Bosio's manager with the Mariners, Lou



On April 22, 1993, Chris Bosio became the second pitcher in Mariners history (first right-hander) to toss a no-hit game. Randy Johnson threw the first hitless game for Seattle in 1990.

Piniella, had batted cleanup for the Yankees that day.

Bosio's gem was the first no-hitter Piniella had managed. Piniella would preside over one more—with the Chicago Cubs, when Carlos Zambrano no-hit the Houston Astros in 2008—before wrapping up a 23-year managerial career.

Piniella's arrival as Seattle manager in 1993—he'd guided the Cincinnati Reds to the World Series title three years earlier—was a big reason Bosio had just signed a four-year, \$15.25-million contract with the Mariners. Bosio had spent his first six seasons with the Milwaukee Brewers, for whom he posted a career-best 16-6 record in 1992.

Another reason behind Bosio's decision was the defensive potential he saw in the M's.

"The ball bounced my way and the guys made the plays," says Bosio, who made no-hit history after shortstop Omar Vizquel barehanded a high bouncer over the mound and threw to first for the final out.

It was Bosio's first victory as a Mariner—coming in his fourth start—and was the second no-hitter in Mariners

annals. Bosio's teammate, left-hander Randy Johnson—a future Hall of Famer, 303-game winner and second on the all-time strikeout list—had delivered the first one three years earlier.

There now are five no-hitters in the M's 40-year history, including a perfect game by Felix Hernandez, the club's all-time victory leader, in 2012. Nevertheless, Bosio's 97-pitch effort ranks as the most economical in pitches thrown.

Officially, there were only 13,604 fans in attendance that night, and over the past 24 years, Bosio feels as if he's met them all.

"I still get people asking me to sign tickets from that game," says Bosio, who is in his first year as the Detroit Tigers' pitching coach.

A baseball lifer, Bosio spent the previous six seasons as pitching coach for the Cubs, helping them end a 108-year World Series championship drought in 2016.

Though well-versed in modern methods and metrics, Bosio was raised when pitchers were pitchers. His statistics—a 94-93 record and a 3.96 ERA over 11 seasons—don't reflect the value he brought to a rotation. Bosio was an innings-eater who always took the ball. And he had a ball doing it, averaging 179 innings per season over a nine-year span.

"Pitch counts were basically irrelevant back then," he says. "That's not to say we were throwing 130 or 140 pitches per game, but 120 was the norm. I mean, I had 39 complete games."

Understand the man isn't bragging, just stating a fact.

"Back then they gave you the ball and expected you to finish those games," Bosio says with a shrug.

Before coming home to Seattle for three games against Boston, the Mariners had lost five of seven in Toronto and Detroit.

"We were a young club, our pitching was thin, and I heard we needed a starter," Bosio recalls. "I had (started on three days' rest) a couple of times in Milwaukee, and I told Lou I had no problem doing it."

Though the Red Sox would finish fifth in the A.L. East at 80-82, they were in first place at 11-4 entering Bosio's start. Their team batting average was a robust .285.

"I remember our pitching coach, Sammy Ellis, warning us about their offensive abilities," Bosio says. "Ivan Calderon, Mike Greenwell, Andre Dawson, Mo Vaughn—the list went on and on."

Fear, however, was not the reason Bosio woke up with a bad stomach.

"Sure as heck, after telling Lou I could go, I got up with the flu, and it didn't get any better when I got to the park," Bosio says. "Before the game, I'm warming up in the bullpen. I remember cutting it short and throwing the ball into the stands because I had to get to the john."

Bosio shakes his head.

"I got sick again in the tunnel," he says. "In Seattle, we normally did the national anthem with everyone on the field. They waited for me to come out, but I never did—so we did it right in front of the dugout that day."

Bosio opened the game by walking Ernest Riles and Carlos Quintana, prompting a visit from Ellis.

"What's going on out here?" the coach asked.

"I think he was a little over-excited," Bosio's catcher, Dave Valle, would say later. "I think he was trying to overthrow. He had a real good curve and slider."

CHRIS BOSIO NO-HITTER APRIL 22, 1993, AT THE KINGDOME

Boston	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
Seattle	0	2	2	1	0	2	0	0	x — 7 11 0

BOSTON RED SOX

	AB	R	H	RBI
Ernest Riles, 2b	3	0	0	0
Carlos Quintana, rf	2	0	0	0
Mike Greenwell, lf	3	0	0	0
Andre Dawson, dh	3	0	0	0
Mo Vaughn, 1b	3	0	0	0
Ivan Calderon, cf	3	0	0	0
Scott Cooper, 3b	3	0	0	0
John Valentin, ss	3	0	0	0
Tony Pena, c	3	0	0	0
Totals	26	0	0	0



(AP Photo/Tony Dajack)

MO VAUGHN

SEATTLE MARINERS

	AB	R	H	RBI
Mike Felder, lf	4	0	1	1
Henry Cotto, dh	3	0	0	0
Mackey Sasser, ph/dh	1	0	0	0
Ken Griffey Jr, cf	4	0	0	0
Jay Buhner, rf	3	1	0	0
Bret Boone, 2b	4	2	3	2
Tino Martinez, 1b	3	1	1	0
Mike Blowers, 3b	4	1	2	1
Dave Valle, c	4	1	2	2
Omar Vizquel, ss	4	1	2	0
Totals	34	7	11	6



(AP Photo/Cheryl Hatch)

BRET BOONE

HR: Boone; SB: Felder, Blowers; E: Quintana;
DP: Boston 1, Seattle 1; LOB: Boston 1, Seattle 6.

PITCHING BOSTON RED SOX

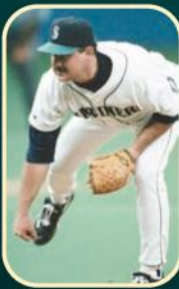
	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Joe Hesketh (L)	3.0	6	5	5	2	1
Paul Quantrill	2.2	4	2	1	0	2
Tony Fossas	0.1	0	0	0	0	0
Greg Harris	1.0	0	0	0	1	2
Ken Ryan	1.0	1	0	0	0	0

SEATTLE MARINERS

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Chris Bosio (W)	9.0	0	0	0	2	4

Umpires: Vic Voltaggio (HP), Ken Kaiser (1B),
Mark Johnson (2B), Jim McKean (3B)

Time of Game: 2:12 Attendance: 13,604



(AP Photo/Bill Egan)

CHRIS BOSIO

At that point, however, Bosio just stared at Ellis. "You're the flipping pitching coach, why don't you tell me?" Bosio asked.

"Are you feeling all right?" Ellis responded.

"Sammy, I feel like crap," Bosio shot back.

"Well," Ellis said, trying to settle Bosio's nerves, if not his digestion, "why don't we try to get a groundball and get out of this thing?"

Says Bosio now, "I threw a little dead-fish sinker to Greenwell, and he hit a perfect two-hopper to Bret Boone at second. We turned a double play. Dawson was up next, and I threw him three cutters. He chased them all."

After that, Bosio was in another world until the eighth, when Buhner brought him back to reality. After all, when you're sick as a dog and walk the first two hitters of the game, who thinks no-hitter?

By then, the Mariners had scored two runs in the second, two more in the third, another in the fourth and two more in the sixth. For Bosio, the outs had just kept coming—though according to reports, his velocity never exceeded 89 mph.

"He was getting the slider over and taking some off the fast-ball and moving his pitches around very well," Red Sox manager Butch Hobson said. "And they really defended us well."

In the third inning, Seattle first baseman Tino Martinez fielded a shot by Riles on his knees and threw to Bosio for the out.

"One thing we had to do, and Lou talked about it all the time—and I also talk about it a lot with our pitchers—is being able to cover the middle part of the field," Bosio says. "That allowed you to position your defense, especially on the Kingdome (artificial) turf, which was so difficult

because it was so fast and had creases around the bases, between the dirt and the turf. It was the hardest place I ever played a baseball game."

Hard as in difficult. Hard, also, as in concrete.

"You never knew where the ball was going to go," Bosio says. "It bounced around like a SuperBall."

In the fifth, Vaughn hit a bad-hop grounder off Martinez' glove.

"It was going to be a basic two-hopper right to him, but it hit a seam and bounced off his chest," Bosio says. "Bret Boone came over, barehanded it out of midair and threw to me at first base for the out. Just an unbelievable play."

The fifth inning ended with Buhner sliding to snare a line drive off the bat of Scott Cooper after appearing to have lost it in the lights.

"There were so many great plays in that game," Bosio says. "Mike Blowers at third made a play down the line to his arm side, a backhand play, diving, getting up and throwing. And Ken Griffey Jr. made two incredible plays (in center) as well. I'd watched it from the other side of the field when I was a Milwaukee Brewer, and it was on display in that game for sure."

By the ninth inning, Bosio was out of his trance.

"Obviously, going out there for that ninth was a lot different than any other inning," he says. "Because on every pitch, everyone was involved, and the crowd was involved, and now I actually comprehended what was going on."

When Bosio coached for the Cubs, president of baseball operations Theo Epstein and general manager Jed Hoyer worked with him to develop a "no-hitter protocol." It was a specific set of guidelines for handling no-hit situations.

"With the quality of starters we had, plus the defense we



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had, we felt we were going to have one or two no-hitter opportunities every year,” Bosio says. “The protocol had a lot to do with stressful innings, where we were at in the lineup, where we were in the eighth inning, etc. Was the player coming off injury? Is it early in the season? Is it late? And you need that. We’ve all seen some guys who had no-hitters in the past, but because their pitch counts got up too high, had arm injuries that might linger for the rest of the year.”

Again, Bosio shakes his head.

“It’s easier said than done, because once you get in that position, who knows?” he says. “It’s the old cliché: Nobody can move their seat, you’ve got to keep doing what you’re doing. If you had two pieces of gum the previous inning, you’ve got to have that. If you had one drink of water, same thing. You’ve got to do exactly the same thing or you’re going to change the mojo. Nobody wants to be the guy that gets blamed.”

There was no protocol in place—just age-old baseball superstition—when Bosio began the top of the ninth by retiring John Valentin and Tony Pena on grounders.

Something Bosio learned—and that he discussed with Jake Arrieta, who threw two no-hitters during Bosio’s tenure with the Cubs—is that batters often lose their way as a no-hitter progresses.

“Jake told me he noticed hitters don’t take the same kind of swings they did earlier,” Bosio says. “And it’s true. The later it gets, they’re on the defensive, just trying to make contact and put the ball in play rather than being uber-aggressive and trying to hit it out of the park or drive it into the gap. But you’ve still got to be aggressive with all of your stuff and not be afraid to throw any pitch at any time. That’s the thing I saw Jake do in his no-hitters. He just kept pitching. And a big reason I only had 97 pitches in that complete-game no-hitter was aggressiveness, and also trying to use the other team’s aggressiveness in my favor.”

Finally, on a 2-1 pitch, Riles hit a high chopper over the mound, over the head of a leaping Bosio. A charging Vizquel—who that year would win the first of his 11 Gold Gloves—made his highlights-reel pick-up and throw to end the game, beating Riles by two steps.

“Omar was one of the most impressive shortstops I’ve ever seen play behind me or against me,” Bosio says. “A lot of people went, ‘Oh, my God, that was incredible.’ But Omar made that play routinely because he practiced it all the time in batting practice. Because of the way the field played, with all those high choppers, it was something our infield instructor, Sam Perlozzo, worked with the guys on as well. Tino, Boonie, Omar, Mike Blowers—we had a really good defensive team, and never more impressive than that night.”

Randy Johnson was among the first to grab Bosio in the postgame mayhem.

“When I got out to the mound, I kind of gave him a hug and told him that game was probably for his grandfather, who had passed away,” Johnson said. “He just kind of smiled at me. No-hitters are very special. I realize how hard they are to achieve. And when you see someone else throw it, now you’re on the outside looking in, and it’s pretty special to watch.”

Though they were basically the same age (Bosio was five months older), Bosio had 17 more career victories than Johnson at that point. Still, Bosio held the lefty’s talent in

awe. He followed the 6-foot-10 flamethrower in the rotation and therefore charted all of Johnson’s starts.

“Here was a guy who was a threat to throw a no-hitter every night,” Bosio says of Johnson, who was 46 when he finally retired. “A tough act to follow, a guy throwing 100 mph with a 93-94 mph slider, as dominating a left-hander as I think this game could possibly ever see. I was just a guy who had to hit my spots to be successful.”

Bosio recalls a big celebration, after which King County provided police escorts home for the Mariners. But his first thoughts after the final out were personal and emotional.

“All I could think about was my grandfather passing away that spring and a number of different things that happened in spring training,” Bosio says. “A transient guy had broken into our house in northern California. There was a murder-suicide in the apartment complex where we lived in spring training. And my poor dog. Every morning before I went to spring training, I’d take him and we’d go for a run. One morning he was hit by a speeding work truck. A number of things went through my mind, but the No. 1 thing after that last out was my grandfather.

“And, of course, I thought about all of my teammates and the hard work we put in in spring training. A big reason I went to Seattle was because of Lou Piniella and what the Mariners organization was trying to do to turn baseball around in Seattle.”

After signing Bosio, Mariners general manager Woody Woodward had proclaimed: “The mentality that Seattle isn’t the place to be has changed.”

The 1993 Mariners finished fourth at 82-80. Significantly, however, it was only the second .500-plus season in their history. They made the playoffs for the first time in 1995, a year after a labor strike wiped out the entire postseason.

The ’95 Mariners tied the Angels for first place in their division, then whipped them 9-1 in a one-game playoff at the Kingdome behind Johnson’s complete-game three-hitter. Battle-tested, Seattle overcame a 2-0 series deficit—and an early 5-0 score in Game 4—to beat the Yankees in a best-of-five ALDS. The journey ended with a six-game loss to Cleveland in the ALCS.

“No-hitters and the accolades you get from them are great,” Bosio says. “But getting to the playoffs as a team in ’95—and being the first Mariners team to do it—was even better. What was incredible was Randy pitching that epic game against the Angels, and then me pitching the first playoff game—literally—in Mariners history in Yankee Stadium (a no-decision after Bosio allowed four runs in 5.2 innings).”

Bosio’s no-hitter was his ninth and final career shutout. At age 33, he was finished after the 1996 season. Twelve arthroscopic knee surgeries during his playing career had taken their toll. He attempted a comeback in the spring of 1998—with the Red Sox, of all teams—but suffered a shoulder muscle injury while trying to make the team as a non-roster invitee. He finally underwent double knee replacement after the 2012 season.

“If you aren’t tough enough, this game will eat you alive,” coach Chris Bosio tells his pitchers.

And they listen. Intently. It’s due respect for a man who no-hit the mighty Red Sox on three days’ rest—who held down the enemy when he lacked the stomach to hold down anything else. **BD**

RULES CORNER

By Rich Marazzi

A Review of Some Unusual Plays in 2017

Every year plays occur that challenge the obscure rules of the game

April 6: Just when you think you've seen it all, a pitched ball got stuck on the chest protector of St. Louis Cardinals catcher Yadier Molina when the Redbirds hosted the Chicago Cubs.

Matt Szczur led off the top of the seventh facing Brett Cecil. On the 0-2 pitch, Cecil threw a breaking ball that bounced in the dirt before reaching the plate. Szczur swung at the pitch, but failed to make contact, resulting in the third strike. The ball bounced up toward Molina and stuck on the front side of his chest protector. The incident resembled backyard Velcro baseball. Szczur ran to first, where he was allowed to remain.

Molina had no idea what happened and began looking for the ball on the ground. Eventually, he realized the ball was stuck on his chest protector. He could only laugh when the umpire called time and pulled it off his equipment.

Rule 5.06 (c) (7) reads, "If a pitched ball lodges in the umpire's or catcher's mask or paraphernalia, and remains out of play, on the third strike or fourth ball, then the batter is entitled to first base and all runners advance one base. If

the count on the batter is less than three balls, runners advance one base." When the rule was written, who would think of adding the language, "if a pitched ball gets stuck to the catcher's chest protector." But the rule, as is, works for this play.

Obviously a play of this type is subject to speculation and doubt. Although the sticky chest protector was removed from the game, from what I understand, plate umpire Quinn Wolcott did not inspect the ball, the chest protector or the pitcher for a foreign substance. I would have to ask, why not?

The player who is most vulnerable in these situations is the pitcher. It's illegal for a pitcher to deliver a ball with a foreign substance, whether or not he applied it. A pitcher doesn't have to deliver a pitch to be charged. Having a foreign substance on his person is also a crime and often punishable by a 10-day suspension. Cecil could have been put in jeopardy here if the substance that was on Molina's protector was transferred to the pitcher's mound.

June 6: The Arizona Diamondbacks hosted the San Diego Padres. In the top of the third, the Padres had a runner on first and one out when pitcher Dinelson Lamet

popped up a bunt attempt that was fielded by Paul Goldschmidt on one hop. The D-backs first baseman picked up the ball that settled near a resting bird between home and first, and for a brief moment had the bird in his glove with the ball. Fortunately, the bird escaped and Goldschmidt retired the runner going to second.

If the bird prevented Goldschmidt from making the play, what should the umpires have done?

The answer is nothing. He certainly shouldn't have ruled a "fowl ball."

If a batted or thrown ball strikes a bird in flight or other animals on the playing field, the ball is considered alive and in play, the same as if it had not touched the bird or animal. If a pitched ball, however, strikes a bird in flight or other animals on the playing field, the pitch is nullified and play resumes with the previous count. It's a do-over.



(AP Photo/Jeff Roberson)

RULES CORNER

You might recall when a Randy Johnson heater destroyed a bird in a spring training game on March 24, 2001. “The Big Unit,” facing Calvin Murray of the San Francisco Giants, fired a pitch that never made it to the plate. Instead, it hit a mourning dove, creating an explosion of feathers.

The home-plate umpire properly called it a “no pitch.” The play, like the bird, was dead.

June 10: The Colorado Rockies and Chicago Cubs played at Wrigley Field when the Cubs turned an unusual double play during an infield fly rule situation. In the top of the seventh, the Rockies had Raimel Tapia on second and Tony Wolters on first when Carlos Gonzalez hit a pop fly between the pitcher’s mound and second base.

Several Cubs converged on the ball that was called an infield fly by the umpires. The ball dropped to the ground where Ben Zobrist picked it up and threw to third baseman Kris Bryant, who tagged Tapia for the strange double play.

Tapia was not forced to run to third because the infield fly rule had been called. Did Tapia attempt to advance because he thought he could reach third base, or did he go to third because he thought he had to run because the pop fly wasn’t caught? Was he aware that he was protected by the IFR and did not have to run?

Credit Bryant for applying the tag on Tapia. Often times fielders do not tag runners who attempt to advance after the IFR is called because it appears the runners are forced. Runners are never forced to run when the IFR is called.

June 16: The Boston Red Sox, leading 2-1, survived an odd play in the eighth inning of their contest with the Houston Astros at Minute Maid Park.

The Astros had Jose Altuve on second and Carlos Correa on first with one out when Evan Gattis swung and missed. Altuve broke for third on the pitch. Sox catcher Christian Vazquez’ throw to third deflected off Gattis’ bat.

The ball ricocheted in the direction of pitcher Matt Barnes, who fielded the ball to the first-base side of the mound. This prevented Correa from advancing.

Plate umpire D.J. Reyburn properly kept the ball alive and in play. Gattis then hit into an inning-ending double play.

The MLB Umpire Manual states that if the batter is standing in the batter’s box and he or his bat is struck by the catcher’s throw to the pitcher (or throw attempting to retire a runner)—and, in the umpire’s judgment, there is no intent on the part of the batter to interfere with the throw—the ball is alive and in play.

Sept. 19: The Chicago Cubs and Tampa Bay Rays were playing an interleague contest at the Trop. Steven Souza was batting in the bottom of the sixth with a 3-2 count, two outs and the bases empty, when he foul-tipped a Mike Montgomery pitch. The ball caromed off the glove of Cubs catcher Willson Contreras, who cradled the ball just to the side of his chest protector.

Did he make a legal catch of the foul tip?

Yes.

Plate umpire Mark Carlson correctly called Souza out, spurring Rays manager Kevin Cash to question the call. But Carlson made the proper call because the foul tip first struck Contreras’ mitt. A catcher can make a legal catch of a foul tip if the ball first strikes his mitt or hand first.

Sept. 22: Toronto Blue Jays shortstop Ryan Goins successfully pulled off the hidden-ball trick on the New York Yankees’ Todd Frazier in the top of the third inning. Frazier was on second base when Jose Bautista made a terrific catch of a ball hit

by Jacoby Ellsbury. Bautista threw to Goins, who after the action had slowed down, faked a throw to pitcher Marco Estrada. Goins then alertly tagged Frazier when he lifted his foot and lost contact with the base. Second-base umpire Mark Carlson called Frazier out.

Pitchers must be aware of where the ball is as well as the runners and base coaches. When an infielder executes the hidden-ball trick, if the pitcher is on or straddling the rubber, a balk will be called.

Former shortstop Gene “Stick” Michael, who passed away in September, was one of the great hidden-ball tricksters when he played, pulling off the ruse at least seven times during his career.



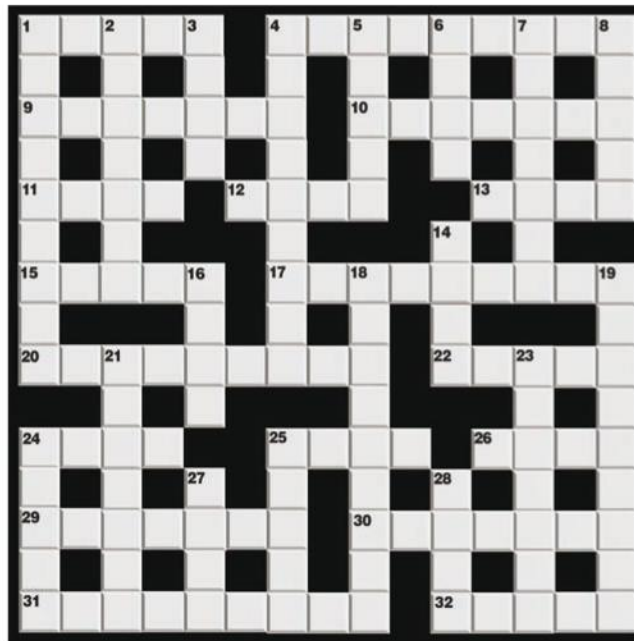
(AP Photo/John Minchillo)

ACROSS

- 1 Sabo or Sale
 4 He was the A.L.'s top rookie in 2014
 9 Error
 10 O'Hare is Chicago's
 11 Budweiser product
 12 San Francisco's third baseman _____ Longoria
 13 Agree on a contract
 15 Bartolo _____ was 2005 A.L. Cy Young Award winner
 17 A double is a _____
 20 Nolan Ryan is MLB's all-time _____ leader
 22 Toronto's _____ Estrada
 24 "Molly's" first name
 25 Drop a flyball
 26 Top pitchers
 29 Alternate players at a position
 30 Francisco _____ was twice named Comeback Player of the Year: in 2010 with the Twins and in 2013 with the Pirates
 31 Diamondbacks hurler who had back-to-back 200-strikeout seasons in 2016 and 2017
 32 Norfolk's Triple-A team

BASEBALL CROSSWORD PUZZLE

By Larry Humber

**DOWN**

- 1 Late rallies
 2 Veteran backstop _____ Martin
 3 Bernie Mac played _____ Ross in *Mr. 3000*
 4 This Canadian-born player was N.L. MVP in 2010
 5 "_____ and Sain and pray for rain"
 6 Hair style for which Oscar Gamble was known
 7 Cheering for, _____ for
 8 Norfolk-born Justin _____ is now an Angel
 14 Get ready to play, _____ up
 16 Mike Trout has a shoe deal with this company
 18 A dead ball is _____
 19 Some of Kris Bryant's homers are termed _____ at Wrigley Field
 21 Fight or altercation
 23 Former Astro J.R. _____
 24 George Plimpton wrote _____ *Lion*
 25 Bush, _____ League
 27 Lawrence Berra was better known as this
 28 _____ Boone

ANSWERS ON PAGE 70

Sept. 24: If a fielder deliberately throws his glove and makes contact with a thrown ball, the award is two bases from the position of the runner(s) at the point when the glove makes contact with the ball. The ball is not dead and the runner(s) can advance beyond the two-base award at their own risk. See rule 5.06 (4) (D).

The Boston Red Sox and Cincinnati Reds played at Great America Park. In the bottom of the fifth inning, the Reds had Adam Duvall on first base with two outs when Jackson Stephens singled on a flare to center. Red Sox center fielder Jackie Bradley Jr. fielded the ball and air-mailed it into the Reds dugout. The umpires allowed Duvall to score because he had second base made the moment Bradley released the ball. Stephens was sent to second base because he had not yet made first base at the time Bradley released the ball.

Regarding Bradley's throw to third base, it appeared that Sox third baseman Rafael Devers intentionally threw his glove at the high throw. If Devers' glove had made contact with the ball, the umpires would have had to determine the runners' position at the point when the glove made contact with the ball. Because we know Duvall had second base made, he would score. If Stephens had not yet made first base, he would have been awarded second base. If the umpires judged that Stephens had touched first base before Devers' glove made contact with the ball, Stephens would have been

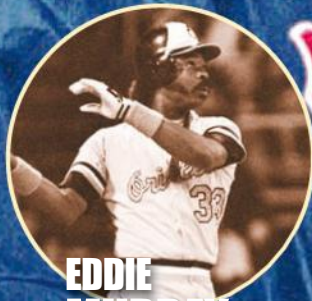
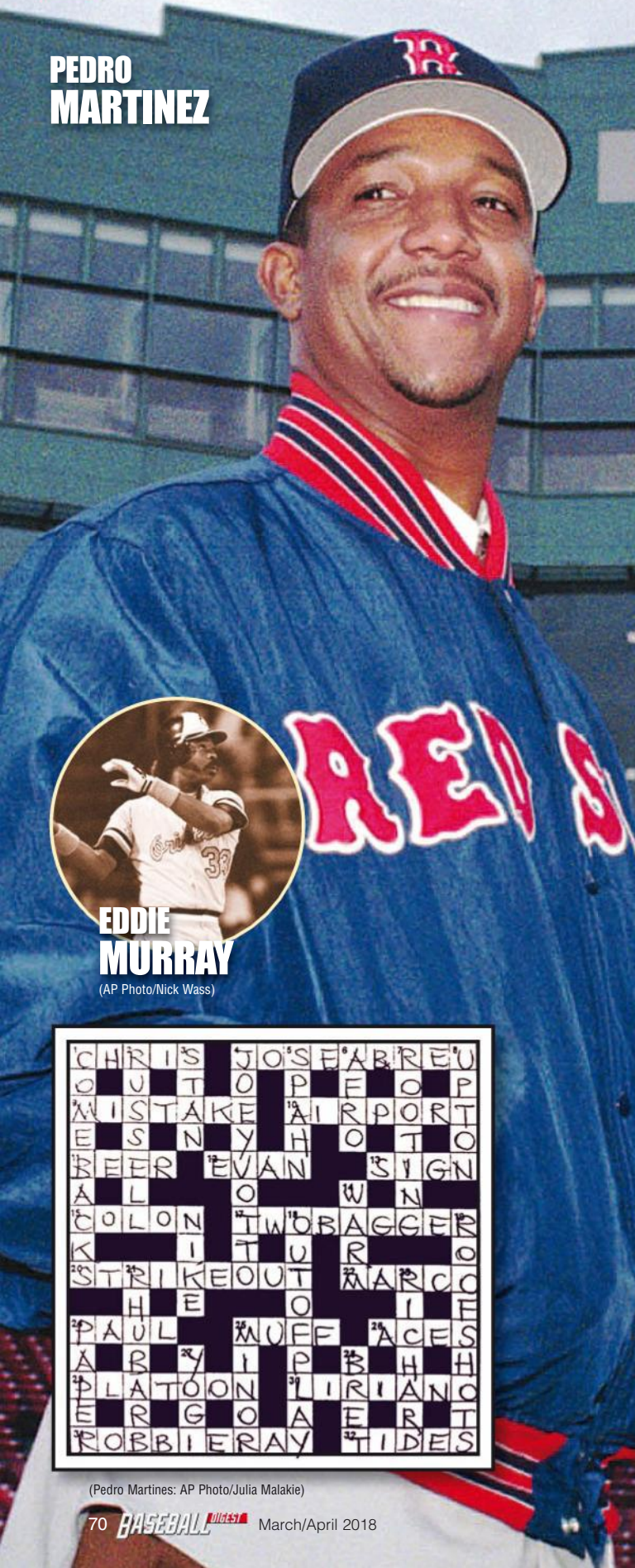
awarded third base. Because the ball is not dead, the runner(s) can advance further than the two-base award but do so at their own risk. If they are subsequently retired, the out would stand.

If Devers' glove made contact with the ball and the umpires judged that he did not deliberately throw his glove at the ball, there would be no violation. In the above play, because the glove was launched several feet into the air, chances are Devers' act was intentional. But it was a moot point because his glove did not make contact with the thrown ball.

By the way, when a fielder intentionally throws his glove at a fair batted ball or a foul ball that has a chance of being fair, and makes contact with the ball, the batter and all runners are awarded three bases from their position on the bases at the point the glove makes contact with the ball. The ball, however, is not dead. If the batter-runner has not reached first base when the fielder makes contact with the ball, his award would be third base. If he attempts to advance further, he does so at his own risk. If the batter-runner had reached first base at the point of contact, he would score along with any other runner(s) on base. **BD**

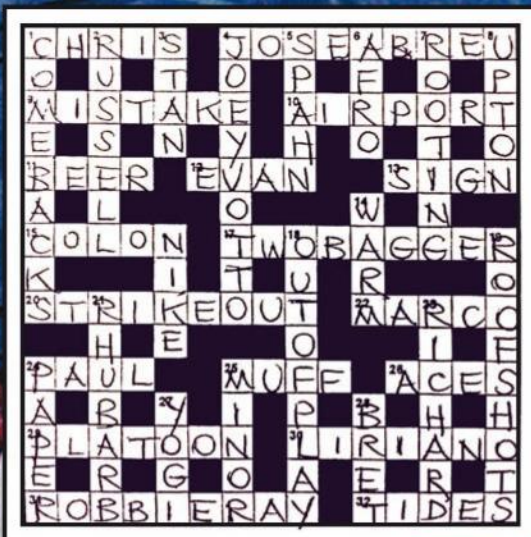


PEDRO MARTINEZ



EDDIE MURRAY

(AP Photo/Nick Wass)



(Pedro Martinez: AP Photo/Julia Malakie)

1 The five pitchers to have a 25-win season since 1974 are Jim Hunter of the A's (25 in 1974), Ferguson Jenkins of the Rangers (25 in 1974), Ron Guidry of the Yankees (25 in 1978), Steve Stone of the Orioles (25 in 1980), and Bob Welch of the A's (27 in 1990).

2 Besides Max Scherzer, the three other pitchers with a 250-strikeout season in both leagues are Nolan Ryan, Pedro Martinez and Randy Johnson. Ryan recorded them for the Angels and Rangers in the A.L. and the Astros in the N.L. Martinez reached the 250 plateau for the Expos in the N.L. and Red Sox in the A.L. Johnson did it as a member of the Mariners in the A.L. and Diamondbacks in the N.L.

3 The three pitchers to win 15 or more games and save 15-plus games in a season since 1969 are Bill Campbell, Tom Johnson and Mike Marshall. Campbell won 17 games and saved 20 for the Twins in 1976. Marshall was credited with 15 wins and 21 saves for the Dodgers in 1974. Johnson earned 16 wins and 15 saves for the Twins in 1977.

4 Hank Greenberg clubbed 39 home runs at Tiger Stadium in 1938, when he paced the A.L. with 58 homers and set a major-league record for most HR in one ballpark during a single season.

5 At the start of the 2018 campaign, Yankees left-hander CC Sabathia led all active pitchers with 38 complete games. Clayton Kershaw had 25; Justin Verlander and James Shields had 23.

6 The five players with 3,000 hits and 500 lifetime homers are Hank Aaron (3,771/755), Alex Rodriguez (3,115/696), Willie Mays (3,283/660), Rafael Palmeiro (3,020/569), and Eddie Murray (3,255/504).

7 The eight pitchers to win a league MVP Award and be elected to the Hall of Fame are Lefty Grove (1931), Hal Newhouser (1944, 1945), Rollie Fingers (1981) and Dennis Eckersley (1992) in the American League, and Carl Hubbell (1933, 1936), Dizzy Dean (1934), Sandy Koufax (1963) and Bob Gibson (1968) in the N.L.

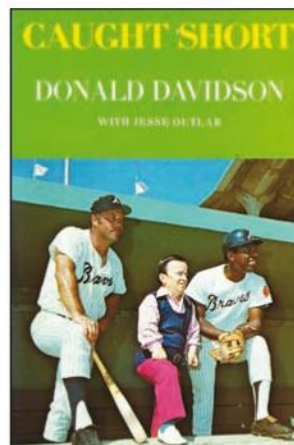
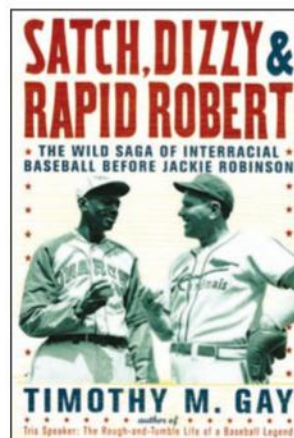
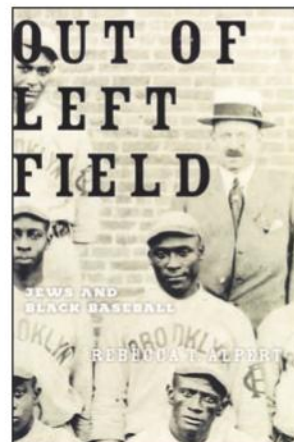
8 Walter Johnson holds the major-league record for pitchers with nine Opening Day wins. Jack Morris and Grover Alexander have eight and Tom Seaver has six.

9 Harold Reynolds led the A.L. in steals with the Mariners in 1987—the only year Rickey Henderson did not pace the league from 1980 through 1991.

10 The nine MLB players to hit 20 or more homers and steal 20-plus bases in 2017 are Mike Trout, Tommy Pham, Wil Myers, Brett Gardner, Keon Broxton, Mookie Betts, Andrew Benintendi, Elvis Andrus and Jose Altuve.

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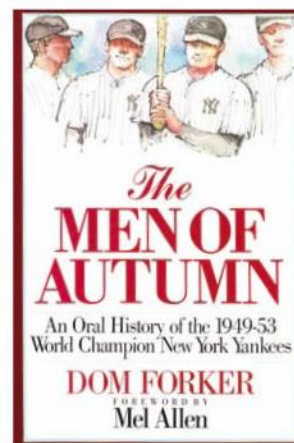
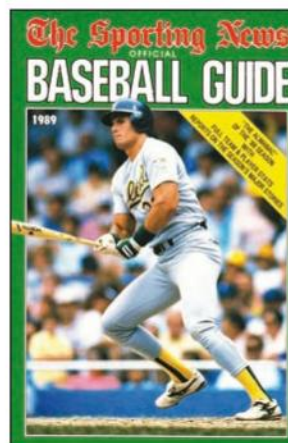
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