STADIUM & STREET

THE 2027 ROSTER PROJECT / ATHLETICS

The Athletics need innings their young lineup can grow behind

Buy rotation stability. Keep the young hitters playing.

64	-238	3
WINS	RUN MARGIN	COSTED PATHS

An independent review of the roster, defense, pitching, farm system and financial choices.

A preferred plan. Two tested alternatives. A clear account of what could go wrong.

Richard Brown | November 3, 2026

Completed 2026 regular season. Roster and market checks November 3.

Independent analysis. Proposed prices and workloads are scenarios.

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READING GUIDE

Start with the decision. Then test the evidence.

The opening brief states the recommendation and its price. The main analysis tests the roster and the alternatives. The back of the report preserves the player register, definitions and sources.

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A single public edition is suitable for forwarding. The analysis makes no claim of club affiliation or access to private baseball information.

ANALYSIS / 01

The decision: buy rotation stability, keep the hitters' jobs open

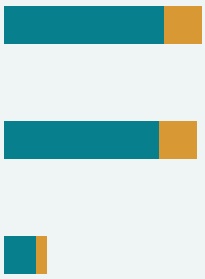
The Athletics allowed 937 runs in 2026. That is the first number an offseason plan must address. The young offense has genuine promise, led by Nick Kurtz and supported by Shea Langeliers, Tyler Soderstrom and Henry Bolte. But the club finished 64-98 because a lineup scoring 699 runs could not keep pace with its pitching and defensive losses. A winter centered on another expensive corner bat would leave the largest problem intact. [1,2]

Our preferred plan buys Tyler Mahle for 28 starts and 150 innings, Michael Soroka for 24 starts and 125 innings, and Jonah Heim for a limited backup-catching role. The proposed terms are two years and $28-32 million for Mahle, one year and $8-10 million for Soroka, and one year and $2-3 million for Heim. Including a separate $6-8 million depth reserve, annual additions total $30-37 million. The resulting player-allocation envelope is $116.84-127.84 million. These are S&S negotiating ceilings, subject to current medical, market and compensation review. [5,6,10]

The first alternative replaces Mahle with Nick Martinez at two years and $26-30 million. Martinez takes 160 innings, ten more than Mahle, while Jacob Lopez's allocation falls by ten. The internal plan purchases none of the three players and assigns all their work to named organizational alternatives. It is cheaper, but it asks much more of pitchers whose command, health or major-league performance is unsettled. No anonymous reserve is credited with innings.

The investment case is developmental as well as competitive. The Athletics need to learn which hitters belong in a durable lineup while limiting the number of games in which the staff loses control of the score early. Mahle and Soroka do not make the club a contender by themselves. They create a more credible environment for evaluating the existing talent, at prices that leave room for subsequent decisions.

THREE ANNUAL SPENDING PLANS



A: Mahle / Soroka / Heim	**$30-37M**
B: Martinez for Mahle	**$29-36M**
C: Internal roster	**$6-8M**

S&S annual additions. Each includes a $6-8M depth reserve.

Proposed ceilings and reserve. Independent negotiating ceilings.

ANALYSIS / 02

The setback was larger than twelve fewer wins

The Athletics fell from 76 wins to 64. Their run margin deteriorated from minus-84 to minus-238, a 154-run change. Offense accounted for 34 fewer runs; prevention accounted for 120 additional runs allowed. The pitching problem became substantially larger while the offense also lost ground. The 2024-26 comparison does not support a straight-line improvement narrative. [1]

Season	Record	Runs for / against	Margin	OPS / ERA
2024	69-93	643 / 764	-121	.694 / 4.37
2025	76-86	733 / 817	-84	.749 / 4.70
2026	64-98	699 / 937	-238	.719 / 5.51

The completed game log shows a 23-23 record in one-run games and 7-6 in extra innings. Those narrow-game results were not the principal cause of a 98-loss season. Improving late-inning execution matters, but a bullpen-only diagnosis would miss the scale of the broader deficit. The starters had a 5.61 ERA in 768 1/3 innings, and the relievers had a 5.43 ERA in 661 2/3. Both groups need improvement. [2,5]

A 154-RUN DECLINE IN MARGIN

2025 margin: -84 / 2026 margin: -238



34 fewer runs scored;120 more runs allowed.

Source: MLB regular seasons. November 3, 2026 edition.

The season also illustrates why a fixed win forecast would be misleading. Restoring health, changing the defense and buying innings can improve the roster without guaranteeing the precise number of runs saved. The useful offseason question is which changes have identifiable jobs, reasonable prices and credible fallback plans. This report tests those decisions against the actual roster rather than treating the previous win total as destiny.

ANALYSIS / 03

Home conditions matter, but do not explain everything

The Athletics scored 397 runs at home and 302 on the road. Their OPS was .781 at home and .655 away. Pitching split even more sharply: 562 runs allowed and a 6.34 ERA at home, versus 375 and 4.62 on the road. The club went 32-49 in both settings. These are observed splits, not a calculated park adjustment. They combine environment, opponents, personnel and performance. [14]

Split	Record	Runs for / against	OPS / ERA
Home	32-49	397 /562	.781 /6.34
Road	32-49	302 /375	.655 /4.62

The road offense is an important warning against treating every attractive home batting line as transferable production. The road pitching, meanwhile, still was not strong enough to make environmental explanations a complete defense of the staff. A 4.62 road ERA leaves substantial room for better pitching even before discussing the home conditions.

The practical response is to emphasize command, playable defense and honest workload limits. It is not to assume that a particular pitcher is immune to the home environment, or that every disappointing result will normalize. The preferred starters have evidence beyond one favorable split. The position plan also reduces unnecessary exposure to some of the weakest defensive combinations while preserving the young hitters' opportunities.

ANALYSIS / 04

Start with the roster that actually exists

The November 3 major-roster response contains 40 names. Luis Severino remains after exercising his $22 million player option. Jeffrey Springs and Jeff McNeil are free agents after their club options were declined. Heim and Mark Leiter Jr. also entered free agency. None of their 2026 contributions can be silently carried into a retained 2027 roster. [3,4,18]

Nate Eaton is an Athletic after the October 29 trade with Boston for Jareth Rayo. Brian Serven was outrighted to Las Vegas and appears in the organizational records rather than on the current major roster. A proposed Heim return requires a new agreement. A Serven appearance requires selection and a legal roster place. Those are different transactions even though both players caught for the club in 2026.

Player / MLB ID	Latest relevant transaction	Treatment
Jeffrey Springs / 605488	2026-11-02: LHP Jeffrey Springs elected free agency.	No retained principal workload
Jeff McNeil / 643446	2026-11-02: 2B Jeff McNeil elected free agency.	No retained principal workload
Jonah Heim / 641680	2026-10-29: C Jonah Heim elected free agency.	New agreement required

Player / MLB ID	Latest relevant transaction	Treatment
Mark Leiter Jr. / 643410	2026-10-29: RHP Mark Leiter Jr. elected free agency.	No retained principal workload
Brian Serven / 661531	2026-10-29: Athletics sent C Brian Serven outright to Las Vegas Aviators.	Organizational selection required
Joey Estes / 683155	2026-10-29: Athletics sent RHP Joey Estes outright to Las Vegas Aviators.	No retained principal workload
Geoff Hartlieb / 664129	2026-11-02: RHP Geoff Hartlieb elected free agency.	No retained principal workload
Michael Stefanic / 683021	2026-10-29: Athletics sent 2B Michael Stefanic outright to Las Vegas Aviators.	No retained principal workload
Colby Thomas / 687515	2026-10-02: Philadelphia Phillies activated RF Colby Thomas.	No retained principal workload
Aaron Civale / 650644	2026-10-29: RHP Aaron Civale elected free agency.	No retained principal workload
José Suarez / 660761	2026-10-27: LHP José Suarez assigned to Navegantes del Magallanes.	No retained principal workload

The same distinction applies to the farm. Jamie Arnold and Brayan Buelvas are organizational players whose proposed major-league work requires selection. Brett Harris's Las Vegas performance remains historical evidence, but his later moves culminated in a November 2 Philadelphia waiver claim. He is not a retained Athletics depth solution. Player IDs, current status and transaction history control the classification when familiar names appear in older team tables.

ANALYSIS / 05

The lineup has a core, not nine settled answers

Kurtz produced an .879 OPS in 434 plate appearances. Langeliers reached .802 with 23 homers, Soderstrom .810 with 19, and Gelof .797 with 22. Bolte added a .764 OPS in 473 plate appearances. Those are meaningful offensive pieces. They coexist with Wilson's .686, Rooker's .670 and a series of limited or unsuccessful depth samples. [5]

Player / MLB ID	ATH PA	AVG / OBP / SLG	HR	BB / K
Lawrence Butler / 671732	539	.237 / .326 / .394	17	61 / 138
Jeff McNeil / 643446	520	.264 / .313 / .368	9	31 / 59
Henry Bolte / 703607	473	.277 / .359 / .405	11	39 / 133
Shea Langeliers / 669127	467	.262 / .328 / .474	23	37 / 109
Tyler Soderstrom / 691016	453	.245 / .338 / .472	19	53 / 91
Zack Gelof / 680869	435	.256 / .322 / .475	22	31 / 107

Player / MLB ID	ATH PA	AVG / OBP / SLG	HR	BB / K
Nick Kurtz / 701762	434	.256 / .396 / .483	21	79 / 141
Carlos Cortes / 666126	381	.251 / .318 / .397	10	31 / 63
Jonah Heim / 641680	345	.201 / .255 / .361	12	22 / 65
Jacob Wilson / 805779	337	.266 / .298 / .388	7	12 / 39
Max Muncy / 691777	284	.230 / .296 / .387	9	21 / 91
Alika Williams / 675961	231	.270 / .307 / .428	4	10 / 50
Brent Rooker / 667670	203	.200 / .281 / .389	10	19 / 65
Tommy White / 695720	195	.254 / .272 / .328	3	5 / 35
Donovan Walton / 622268	171	.223 / .361 / .410	6	23 / 28
Darell Hernaiz / 687231	157	.234 / .316 / .277	1	16 / 31
Colby Thomas / 687515	121	.202 / .235 / .333	4	4 / 37
Denzel Clarke / 672016	87	.158 / .238 / .171	0	8 / 29
Brian Serven / 661531	85	.175 / .224 / .375	5	4 / 21
Joshua Kuroda-Grauer / 811965	74	.366 / .392 / .507	1	2 / 10

The main plan does not buy a new middle-order hitter. It gives Kurtz 550 plate appearances, Soderstrom and Rooker 450 each, Langeliers 480, and Butler and Bolte 500 each. Those allocations are conditional on current health and performance. They are not predictions that every established hitter rebounds or that every young player sustains his best stretch.

Third base remains a competition among Max Muncy, Tommy White, Darell Hernaiz and Joshua Kuroda-Grauer. That is less comfortable than writing an established veteran into the lineup. It preserves information the club needs, however, and directs the first spending toward a much larger pitching deficit. A later third-base purchase would require a new job and a new playing-time budget, not a fifth name added to the same assignment.

ANALYSIS / 06

Separate the established batting record from a promising year

Kurtz followed a 1.002 OPS in 2025 with .879 in 2026. His 79 walks support the value of his approach even as the headline production declined. Langeliers' last three seasons were .738, .861 and .802. Soderstrom followed .820 with .810 in two substantial seasons. Their recent records provide a stronger foundation than simply selecting each player's best year. [5]

Hitter	2024 MLB PA / OPS	2025 MLB PA / OPS	2026 MLB PA / OPS
Lawrence Butler	451 / .807	630 / .710	539 / .720
Henry Bolte	No MLB season	No MLB season	473 / .764
Shea Langeliers	534 / .738	523 / .861	467 / .802
Tyler Soderstrom	213 / .744	624 / .820	453 / .810
Zack Gelof	547 / .632	101 / .502	435 / .797
Nick Kurtz	No MLB season	489 / 1.002	434 / .879
Jacob Wilson	103 / .629	523 / .799	337 / .686
Max Muncy	No MLB season	220 / .638	284 / .683
Brent Rooker	614 / .927	699 / .814	203 / .670
Denzel Clarke	No MLB season	159 / .646	87 / .409

Gelof's rebound from a limited .502 OPS season in 2025 to .797 is encouraging, but it still requires context. Butler's .807 in 2024 was followed by .710 and .720. Rooker moved from .927 to .814 to .670, with only 203 plate appearances in the most recent season. Health and workload help explain why those records need care; they do not justify automatically replacing the latest evidence with an earlier peak.

Statcast also separates several encouraging results from their underlying contact. Kurtz had a .381 wOBA and .374 expected wOBA, a close pairing. Langeliers was .347/.352. Bolte's .341/.317, Soderstrom's .349/.327 and Gelof's .346/.323 were less aligned. Kuroda-Grauer's .392/.311 came in a very small major-league sample. Expected statistics describe the quality of observed events; they are not next-season projections. [6]

Full MLB season	wOBA	xwOBA	SLG / xSLG
Lawrence Butler	0.319	0.326	0.393 / 0.398
Jeff McNeil	0.301	0.299	0.368 / 0.358
Henry Bolte	0.341	0.317	0.405 / 0.375
Shea Langeliers	0.347	0.352	0.474 / 0.491
Tyler Soderstrom	0.349	0.327	0.472 / 0.411
Zack Gelof	0.346	0.323	0.475 / 0.437

Full MLB season	wOBA	xwOBA	SLG / xSLG
Nick Kurtz	0.381	0.374	0.483 / 0.483
Carlos Cortes	0.315	0.301	0.397 / 0.368
Jonah Heim	0.275	0.285	0.366 / 0.361
Jacob Wilson	0.301	0.282	0.388 / 0.345
Max Muncy	0.300	0.288	0.387 / 0.366
Alika Williams	0.319	0.248	0.428 / 0.299
Brent Rooker	0.294	0.312	0.391 / 0.438
Tommy White	0.264	0.291	0.328 / 0.383
Donovan Walton	0.356	0.322	0.448 / 0.371
Darell Hernaiz	0.275	0.262	0.277 / 0.267
Colby Thomas	0.250	0.248	0.333 / 0.357
Denzel Clarke	0.198	0.209	0.171 / 0.193
Brian Serven	0.261	0.278	0.375 / 0.371
Joshua Kuroda-Grauer	0.392	0.311	0.507 / 0.385

ANALYSIS / 07

Use platoon evidence without turning small samples into permanent roles

Kurtz had a .728 OPS against left-handers and .972 against right-handers. Soderstrom was .712/.857. Those splits support selective rest and matchup choices, but both remain important everyday-development players. Benching them mechanically whenever a left-hander starts would sacrifice opportunities to improve and would overstate the precision of one season's split. [5]

Batter / full MLB season	LHP PA / OPS	RHP PA / OPS
Lawrence Butler	148 / .684	391 / .734
Henry Bolte	148 / .817	325 / .739
Shea Langeliers	134 / 1.000	333 / .722
Tyler Soderstrom	145 / .712	308 / .857
Zack Gelof	115 / .885	320 / .764
Nick Kurtz	157 / .728	277 / .972
Jacob Wilson	115 / .642	222 / .707
Brent Rooker	49 / .513	154 / .721

Batter / full MLB season	LHP PA / OPS	RHP PA / OPS
Max Muncy	105 / .677	179 / .685
Tommy White	69 / .618	126 / .590
Denzel Clarke	38 / .505	49 / .332
Jonah Heim	159 / .855	231 / .471

Langeliers' 1.000 OPS against left-handers contrasted with .722 against right-handers. Heim's full-season .855 against left-handers and .471 against right-handers makes him an awkward offensive complement if used only as a generic platoon partner. His proposed role is workload protection and competent backup catching, not a claim that his bat solves Langeliers' less productive side.

Bolte's .817 against left-handers and .739 against right-handers gives the outfield some useful flexibility. Rooker's .513 against left-handers came in just 49 plate appearances and should not define his future role by itself. The best application of the splits is to choose occasional matchups among healthy, available players while continuing to evaluate the broader record.

ANALYSIS / 08

Defense needs a position plan, not a single team label

Butler's range record moved from minus-1 Outs Above Average in 2024 to plus-4 in 2025 and minus-11 in 2026. Wilson moved from minus-3 in each of his first two seasons to plus-9. Neither one-year extreme should be treated as an immutable talent level. The opportunity counts, positions and health context matter. [7]

Fielder	2024 OAA	2025 OAA	2026 OAA	2026 opportunities
Lawrence Butler	-1	+4	-11	307
Henry Bolte	No row	No row	+3	363
Tyler Soderstrom	-3	+0	-7	235
Zack Gelof	+2	+2	-1	328
Nick Kurtz	No row	-6	-3	231
Jacob Wilson	-3	-3	+9	225
Max Muncy	No row	-7	-7	158
Tommy White	No row	No row	-5	122
Darell Hernaiz	-2	+1	-1	132
Joshua Kuroda-Grauer	No row	No row	+1	65
Denzel Clarke	No row	+13	+3	77
Carlos Cortes	No row	+1	-9	150
Donovan Walton	-2	-1	-9	183

Bolte's plus-3 in 363 opportunities supports a substantial center-field assignment. Clarke's plus-3 came in 77 opportunities, following plus-13 in 2025. His defensive value deserves an opportunity, but an .409 OPS in 87 plate appearances means that simply increasing his playing time is not a costless solution. The preferred plan gives Bolte 100 center-field starts, Clarke 42 and Eaton 20.

Soderstrom and Muncy each finished at minus-7 OAA, White at minus-5, and Cortes and Walton at minus-9. Those figures argue for careful deployment. They do not establish that all the lost outs would disappear with one replacement. The plan gives Soderstrom some first-base and designated-hitter work, limits Cortes' outfield starts and keeps multiple third-base alternatives available. Range is only part of total defense; catching, throwing and receiving require separate evidence.

Fielder	2026 ATH position	Starts / innings
Henry Bolte	RF	1 / 10.0
Darell Hernaiz	2B	5 / 49.2
Darell Hernaiz	3B	11 / 102.0
Joshua Kuroda-Grauer	2B	5 / 42.0
Joshua Kuroda-Grauer	3B	11 / 91.0
Joshua Kuroda-Grauer	SS	3 / 28.0
Max Muncy	LF	2 / 18.2
Tommy White	1B	28 / 233.0
Tyler Soderstrom	LF	99 / 860.1
Lawrence Butler	RF	94 / 909.1
Lawrence Butler	CF	25 / 204.0
Henry Bolte	CF	105 / 909.0
Max Muncy	3B	51 / 444.2
Darell Hernaiz	SS	26 / 221.1
Tommy White	3B	20 / 181.0
Henry Bolte	LF	4 / 53.0
Darell Hernaiz	RF	0 / 2.0
Max Muncy	SS	0 / 0.2

ANALYSIS / 09

Catching is a workload purchase

Langeliers is the only catcher in the current 40-name snapshot. That makes the second catching job a real roster need even if the club spends most of its money on pitching. He receives 110 catching starts in this model, plus five at designated hitter. Heim receives 42, and Serven ten after selection. The seasonal allocation provides rest without treating Langeliers as a 162-game catcher. [3,5]

Catcher	2026 ATH catching IP	Full MLB framing	Full MLB catching value
Shea Langeliers	634.0	-4.82	-4.23
Jonah Heim	510.1	-1.63	-1.43
Brian Serven	186.0	-0.51	Unknown

Langeliers' full-season framing value was approximately minus-4.82 runs, with total catching value near minus-4.23. Heim was about minus-1.63 in framing and minus-1.43 in total catching value. Those measures overlap and must not be added. Heim's recent receiving record does not justify calling him an elite defensive acquisition. The argument for a one-year $2-3 million offer is narrower: an experienced second catcher at a limited cost, with 180 plate appearances rather than a starting job. [8,9]

If Heim is unavailable or fails the current review, Serven adds 120 plate appearances and 30 catching starts; Bryan Lavastida adds 60 plate appearances and 12 catching starts after selection. Serven's .939 Triple-A OPS does not erase his .599 major-league OPS. Lavastida's .688 at Triple-A provides another caution. The internal route is executable on paper but carries more uncertainty, which is why a modest external purchase remains preferred.

ANALYSIS / 10

Health changes the allocation before it changes the headline

Wilson underwent left-shoulder labral surgery in September and also received a right-knee PRP injection. Soderstrom had surgery for left-hip impingement in August. Rooker's late-September club update described a left-knee bone bruise and a hitting and running progression. Kurtz was recovering from a right-thumb strain. These dated reports establish why a fresh readiness check is required; November roster activations do not prove that rehabilitation is complete. [11]

The pitching conditions are equally consequential. Ginn's right-elbow impingement, Severino's right-shoulder strain and Jump's left-shoulder impingement all require current review. Sterner had right-knee surgery. Hoglund's left-hip surgery leaves him outside the principal innings budget. The plan does not rely on all injured pitchers becoming available simultaneously.

De Vries underwent surgery for right-shoulder instability on September 14, with the club hoping for a return during the first two months of 2027. He receives zero principal major-league plate appearances. Arnold's facial

fractures did not require surgery according to the dated update, but his eight proposed major-league starts still depend on recovery, development and selection. The report budgets opportunity conservatively instead of turning a prospect ranking into a medical timetable.

Muncy's knee condition also requires an offseason decision. The 300-plate-appearance allocation is conditional. White, Hernaiz and Kuroda-Grauer receive the replacement work if he cannot fill it. Multiple simultaneous failures would require a combined revision; the single-player branches later in the report should not be added mechanically when they use the same replacements.

ANALYSIS / 11

The internal rotation needs help even before the medical questions

Ginn's 3.71 ERA in 138 1/3 innings was the best substantial starter result, but his 4.12 xERA and 57 walks discourage treating him as a finished top-of-rotation answer. Lopez's 5.47 ERA contrasted with a 3.65 xERA, suggesting better contact-quality evidence than his results alone convey. That does not guarantee a rebound. It supports giving him another defined opportunity rather than discarding him solely on ERA. [5,6]

Pitcher / MLB ID	GS / ATH IP	ERA / full MLB xERA	K / BB / HR	Planning treatment
Jeffrey Springs / 605488	29 / 142.2	6.18 / 4.95	112 / 57 / 35	FA; no retained innings
J.T. Ginn / 669372	24 / 138.1	3.71 / 4.12	121 / 57 / 17	24 starts /130 IP; elbow review
Jacob Lopez / 682052	24 / 123.1	5.47 / 3.65	112 / 58 / 23	24 /130
Jack Perkins / 678022	17 / 121.0	6.10 / 4.09	140 / 51 / 23	12 /60 plus35 relief
Gage Jump / 695611	20 / 98.2	5.47 / 4.63	108 / 46 / 12	18 /95; shoulder review
Luis Severino / 622663	12 / 62.2	4.16 / 4.30	65 / 31 / 9	20 /105; shoulder review; opted in
Kade Morris / 695034	2 / 17.1	10.90 / 5.65	10 / 7 / 5	4 /20 plus25 relief
Brady Basso / 669620	7 / 43.0	6.07 / 3.98	31 / 10 / 4	55 relief IP; alternative starts
Mason Barnett / 686930	6 / 50.0	7.02 / 5.09	50 / 30 / 14	45 relief IP; alternative starts
Luis Morales / 806960	2 / 16.0	13.50 / 7.67	13 / 14 / 7	Development; no principal innings
Gunnar Hoglund / 680684	0 / 0	No MLB sample / No row	0 / 0 / 0	Hip recovery; no principal innings

Perkins struck out 140 in 121 innings but also walked 51 and finished with a 6.10 ERA. Jump had 108 strikeouts and 46 walks in 98 2/3 innings. They are part of the future evaluation, but the preferred plan does not ask both to supply a full veteran workload. Perkins splits 95 total innings between starting and relief. Jump has 95 starting innings, contingent on his shoulder review.

Springs' 142 2/3 innings disappear from the retained roster when his option is declined. His 6.18 ERA is historical evidence, not a reason to pretend the innings no longer need replacing. Severino's $22 million salary

also does not create 180 healthy innings. His principal allocation is 20 starts and 105 innings, with a fully specified failure branch.

ANALYSIS / 12

Relief volume is part of the rotation problem

The bullpen covered 661 2/3 innings in 2026. The preferred plan reduces that burden to 585 by purchasing starter work. The reduction is valuable only if the starters actually supply the innings. It does not itself guarantee better prevention, and it cannot be credited twice as both a rotation gain and a separate bullpen acquisition. [5]

Pitcher	ATH IP	ERA / full MLB xERA	K / BB	Treatment
Luis Medina	73.0	3.08 / 3.87	93 / 39	80 IP; command priority
Hogan Harris	70.1	3.33 / 3.73	88 / 42	80 IP; command priority
Elvis Alvarado	55.1	3.90 / 4.42	65 / 25	60 IP
Scott Blewett	35.1	3.31 / 3.81	32 / 9	55 IP
Justin Sterner	42.2	6.12 / 3.57	40 / 13	45 IP; knee recovery
Jack Perkins	121.0	6.10 / 4.09	140 / 51	35 relief;95 combined
Brady Basso	43.0	6.07 / 3.98	31 / 10	55 IP; starting alternative
Mason Barnett	50.0	7.02 / 5.09	50 / 30	45 IP
Seth Johnson	17.1	6.23 / 4.69	20 / 6	40 IP
Chris Roycroft	13.2	3.29 / 6.27	11 / 9	35 IP
Kade Morris	17.1	10.90 / 5.65	10 / 7	25 relief;45 combined
Yunior Tur	12.2	16.34 / 9.28	14 / 11	15 IP
Drew Rom	12.0	6.75 / 5.19	6 / 3	15 IP
Mark Leiter Jr.	33.2	4.28 / 4.24	38 / 11	FA; hip recovery; no main role

Medina had 93 strikeouts and 39 walks in 73 innings; Harris had 88 and 42 in 70 1/3. Their strikeout ability is useful, and their walk totals are a material constraint. Each receives 80 innings, a substantial bulk role rather than an automatic late-inning designation. Alvarado and Blewett receive 60 and 55. Sterner's 45 depend on current recovery evidence.

The remaining relief work goes to named pitchers with explicit limits. Barnett, Johnson, Roycroft, Morris, Basso, Tur and Rom do not become proven merely because the table needs 585 innings. Their recent results explain why the roster needs both a depth reserve and early performance checkpoints. Steven Okert is an attractive relief alternative, but purchasing him before resolving the rotation would leave the larger workload gap intact.

ANALYSIS / 13

The farm offers alternatives, with real transition costs

Arnold's Double-A line was 113 1/3 innings, a 3.57 ERA, 125 strikeouts and 49 walks. His Triple-A sample was only five innings. That supports an initial major-league opportunity of eight starts and 40 innings after selection, not an immediate 150-inning guarantee. The no-acquisition branch raises his workload substantially and must be judged more cautiously. [15,16]

Player / MLB ID	2026 level and sample	Readiness decision
Jamie Arnold / 701364	AA: 113.1 IP, 3.57 ERA; 125 K / 49 BB	8 MLB starts/40 IP only after selection and recovery
Jamie Arnold / 701364	AAA: 5.0 IP, 1.80 ERA; 5 K / 3 BB	Five AAA innings; no immediate rotation guarantee
Leo De Vries / 815888	AA: 428 PA, .836 OPS, 13 HR; 49 BB / 91 K	Shoulder surgery; zero principal MLB PA
Devin Taylor / 805127	AA: 325 PA, .943 OPS, 14 HR; 41 BB / 93 K	Development; no principal MLB PA
Joshua Kuroda-Grauer / 811965	AAA: 225 PA, .855 OPS, 1 HR; 17 BB / 16 K	350 MLB PA; tiny MLB sample tempered
Tommy White / 695720	AAA: 252 PA, .834 OPS, 9 HR; 12 BB / 35 K	300 MLB PA; third-base competition
Brett Harris / 695391	AAA: 178 PA, .978 OPS, 5 HR; 24 BB / 37 K	Historical Athletics sample; now Philadelphia, no retained role
Brayan Buelvas / 683454	AAA: 403 PA, .840 OPS, 17 HR; 37 BB / 104 K	100 PA after selection; defensive depth
Brian Serven / 661531	AAA: 262 PA, .939 OPS, 9 HR; 31 BB / 68 K	40 PA after selection; internal catcher alternative
Kade Morris / 695034	AAA: 97.0 IP, 4.08 ERA; 71 K / 34 BB	20 starting+25 relief innings
Mason Barnett / 686930	AAA: 66.1 IP, 5.16 ERA; 50 K / 36 BB	45 relief; internal starting alternative
Luis Morales / 806960	AAA: 71.1 IP, 7.70 ERA; 75 K / 51 BB	51 BB; no main MLB innings
Braden Nett / 804556	AAA: 22.0 IP, 8.59 ERA; 27 K / 39 BB	39 BB in22 IP; emergency branch only
Wei-En Lin / 827734	AA: 51.1 IP, 1.93 ERA; 53 K / 13 BB	AA promise; AAA sample separately poor

De Vries' .836 Double-A OPS and Devin Taylor's .943 there are meaningful developmental evidence. Neither is assigned a principal major-league batting role. De Vries has a documented surgical recovery, and Taylor still needs to demonstrate readiness beyond that level. A roster can value prospects highly without spending their future production in an offseason forecast.

Kuroda-Grauer's .855 Triple-A OPS and strong contact sample support more responsibility, but his 74 major-league plate appearances remain too few to establish an .899-OPS true talent. White's .834 Triple-A OPS contrasted with .600 in the majors. Buelvas' .840 Triple-A OPS earns a limited depth consideration after selection. Brett Harris's strong Las Vegas line is retained only as historical evidence because he has departed the organization.

The pitching fallback becomes less comfortable farther down the list. Morales walked 51 in 71 1/3 Triple-A innings. Nett walked 39 in 22. Neither receives principal innings. Nett appears only in an explicitly severe combined-failure branch, where the poor command evidence makes the weakness visible. A named contingency is more honest than an unnamed replacement, but it is not an endorsement of immediate readiness.

ANALYSIS / 14

Price the candidate's full season, then assign the job

Mahle's full season was 149 innings, a 3.99 ERA, 137 strikeouts and 46 walks, with a 3.95 xERA. The proposal buys 150 innings at an annual ceiling of $14-16 million for two years. His strong Atlanta finish should not replace the full-season record as the pricing basis. He is a middle-rotation purchase with a defined job, not an ace inferred from a short stretch. [5,6]

Candidate / MLB ID	Full2026 MLB evidence	S&S decision
Tyler Mahle / 641816	149.0 IP, 3.99 ERA, 3.95 xERA; 137 K/46 BB	A:2 years/$28-32M;28 starts/150 IP
Michael Soroka / 647336	116.0 IP, 3.41 ERA, 4.12 xERA; 114 K/29 BB	A/B:1 year/$8-10M;24/125; arm review
Nick Martinez / 607259	180.0 IP, 3.10 ERA, 3.98 xERA; 109 K/26 BB	B:2 years/$26-30M;28/160; Lopez loses10 IP
Jonah Heim / 641680	390 PA, .628 OPS, 13 HR; 0.275/0.285 wOBA/xwOBA	A/B:1 year/$2-3M;180 PA/42 catching starts
Erick Fedde / 607200	141.0 IP, 3.83 ERA, 4.79 xERA; 99 K/52 BB	Lower-cost inquiry;141 IP,52 BB,23 HR
Chris Bassitt / 605135	102.0 IP, 4.41 ERA, 4.92 xERA; 74 K/38 BB	102 IP; not an assumed180-inning floor
Jameson Taillon / 592791	86.0 IP, 5.65 ERA, 5.96 xERA; 76 K/32 BB	27 HR in86 IP; not principal purchase
Zack Littell / 641793	124.1 IP, 5.21 ERA, 6.64 xERA; 73 K/39 BB	Released;30 HR in124.1 IP; no main offer
Merrill Kelly / 518876	162.0 IP, 4.94 ERA, 6.35 xERA; 113 K/70 BB	Contracted Arizona player; no assumed availability
Griffin Canning / 656288	88.2 IP, 5.68 ERA, 4.69 xERA; 87 K/41 BB	5.68 ERA in88.2 IP; no main offer
Steven Okert / 595345	67.2 IP, 2.13 ERA, 3.13 xERA; 68 K/14 BB	Good relief alternative, but rotation has first claim
Seranthony Domínguez / 622554	62.0 IP, 3.63 ERA, 3.65 xERA; 65 K/31 BB	Current Seattle contract; no assumed free agency

Soroka supplied 116 innings with a 3.41 ERA, 114 strikeouts and 29 walks. His 4.12 xERA is a useful counterweight to the ERA. The proposed 125 innings and one-year $8-10 million limit reflect both his value

and his August right-arm inflammation. September activation establishes a return to the roster, not a current medical clearance. If the arm review fails, the proposal fails with it.

Martinez offers a different profile: 180 innings, a 3.10 ERA, 109 strikeouts and only 26 walks, with a 3.98 xERA. His two-year $26-30 million alternative buys 160 innings here. The extra ten innings reduce Lopez's workload; they are not added above the season total. Mahle remains narrowly preferred for his stronger strikeout profile at a modestly higher price, but current medical information and actual terms could reverse that order.

Taillon's 27 homers in 86 innings and Littell's 30 in 124 1/3 make them poor principal answers to this particular prevention problem. Bassitt's 102 innings should not be casually converted into a 180-inning floor. Kelly and Dominguez are current players under other clubs' control, not assumed free agents. Different names were tested; novelty alone did not produce a better recommendation.

ANALYSIS / 15

Repeated targets require repeated justification

Mahle also appears in the Angels and Braves preparation at two years and $28-32 million. The Athletics use the same ceiling for 150 innings, matching the Angels' workload and sitting just below Atlanta's 155. Here he displaces additional work from Lopez, Jump, Perkins and Morris. Atlanta's case protects a different rotation, while the Angels' case reduces a different developmental burden. The shared name does not make the jobs identical. [21]

Soroka's one-year $8-10 million range and 125-inning role match the Washington and Colorado comparisons. The Athletics do not invent a discounted price because several clubs could use him. Martinez retains the two-year $26-30 million ceiling considered in the Brewers, Royals, Braves, Washington and Boston work. Each dossier is an independent negotiation scenario; one pitcher cannot fill all those jobs simultaneously.

Heim is a small proposed retention, with 180 plate appearances and 42 catching starts. That is a different acquisition from the larger Carson Kelly role considered for the Angels. The Athletics already have Langeliers and should not pay for a starting catcher merely because one was recommended elsewhere. No outgoing prospect package is included in the preferred free-agent plan. Compensation and roster costs still require current review.

The internal route is the decisive comparison. It replaces all three purchases, preserves the existing contracts and exposes the resulting workload concentration. If the club's actual budget cannot support the preferred terms, that is the plan it must evaluate. An unfilled shopping allowance is not a fourth, magically complete roster.

ANALYSIS / 16

The payroll begins with a corrected option decision

The five retained contract allocations total approximately $50.786 million. That includes Severino's exercised $22 million option, Soderstrom at $6.429 million, Rooker at $14 million, Wilson at $2.929 million and Butler at $5.429 million. Allocations include relevant prorated bonuses and differ from both tax AAV and the timing of cash payments. [10,12,18]

Player / MLB ID	2027 allocation	Basis
Luis Severino / 622663	$22.000M	2027 player option exercised; no old signing bonus repeated
Tyler Soderstrom / 691016	$6.429M	7/$86M through2032;2033 option separate
Brent Rooker / 667670	$14.000M	5/$60M through2029; annual allocation differs from12M AAV
Jacob Wilson / 805779	$2.929M	7/$70M through2032;2033 option separate
Lawrence Butler / 671732	$5.429M	7/$65.5M through2031;2032 option separate
TOTAL	$50.786M	Allocation, not tax AAV or cash timing

RosterResource's displayed 2027 headline was approximately $44.836 million at the saved check. Its aggregate omitted Severino's exercised salary. The player row and current option evidence establish that the $22 million belongs in this plan. The headline also does not complete the pre-arbitration roster pool. Treating that subtotal as the full payroll would materially understate the cost of the existing organization.

The four arbitration estimates total $15.3 million: $8.7 million for Langeliers, $1.4 million for Medina, $2.9 million for Gelof and $2.3 million for Harris. These are unsigned estimates. The plan does not assume non-tender savings while continuing to assign the same player's innings or plate appearances. [17]

Player	Estimate, $M	Treatment
Shea Langeliers	8.70	Unsigned estimate; no non-tender saving assumed
Luis Medina	1.40	Unsigned estimate; no non-tender saving assumed
Zack Gelof	2.90	Unsigned estimate; no non-tender saving assumed
Hogan Harris	2.30	Unsigned estimate; no non-tender saving assumed
TOTAL	15.30	Four cases; matches source aggregate

ANALYSIS / 17

Keep cash, allocation and tax concepts separate

The budget adds the $2 million McNeil and $750,000 Springs buyouts, then deducts the source's $2 million 2027 Mets credit from the McNeil trade. The earlier $5.75 million credit is not repeated. Actual payment timing and settlement treatment require confirmation. A separate $20-24 million pool covers pre-arbitration players, minor-league roster costs and callups without pretending a new minimum salary or complete future roster is already settled. [10]

Component	Annual allocation	Definition
Five retained contracts	$50.786M	Includes exercised Severino salary
Arbitration estimates	$15.30M	No settled salaries assumed
McNeil / Springs buyouts	$2M / $0.75M	Declined options; actual payment timing requires confirmation
Mets McNeil credit	-$2M	2027 source allocation;2026 credit not repeated
Pre-arb, minors, callups	$20-24M	S&S pool; new minimum/roster costs unresolved
Existing-roster envelope	$86.84-90.84M	Excludes benefits and tax
RR2027 headline	$44.836M	Excludes Severino22M and complete pre-arb pool
RR2026 estimate	$95.421M	Historical comparison, not an authorized budget
2028 four contract allocations	$38.786M	Future arbitration and roster pool additional

The resulting existing-roster allocation is $86.84-90.84 million before new purchases. Benefits, tax and uncertain cash timing are outside that figure. The 2026 RosterResource estimate of $95.421 million provides historical context, not proof that ownership has authorized any particular 2027 budget. The recommended spending requires an actual club-level resource decision that this independent analysis cannot supply.

The long-term contracts also change shape. The four position-player allocations reach about $38.786 million in 2028, before arbitration and the rest of the roster. Wilson's seven-year agreement runs through 2032 with a 2033 option; Soderstrom's also extends through 2032. Butler and Rooker have their own later option structures. The current low annual salaries of some young players are not permanent savings available to spend repeatedly. [10,13]

ANALYSIS / 18

Three plans, three different burdens

Plan A adds Mahle at $14-16 million annually, Soroka at $8-10 million, Heim at $2-3 million and the separate $6-8 million reserve. Annual additions are $30-37 million, and new commitments plus the first-year reserve total $44-53 million. The total player-allocation envelope is $116.84-127.84 million. The reserve has no statistical production attached to it.

Plan	Annual additions	Total allocation	New commitment
A: Mahle / Soroka / Heim	$30-37M	$116.84-127.84M	$44-53M
B: Martinez for Mahle	$29-36M	$115.84-126.84M	$42-51M
C: Internal roster	$6-8M	$92.84-98.84M	$6-8M

Plan B substitutes Martinez for Mahle. Annual additions fall to $29-36 million and commitments to $42-51 million, producing $115.84-126.84 million in total allocation. Soroka and Heim remain. The ten additional Martinez innings replace ten Lopez innings. This is a genuine alternative roster, with a different pitching profile, not a fourth starter purchased on top of Plan A.

Plan C retains only the $6-8 million reserve, for $92.84-98.84 million in total allocation. It assigns Mahle's and Soroka's starts to organizational pitchers and Heim's catching work to Serven and Lavastida. It does not assume free high-quality replacements. The financial savings come with a larger dependence on uncertain development and recovery.

At every price ceiling the club should be willing to walk away. A qualifying offer, unexpected compensation cost, medical finding, more expensive guarantee or unavailable roster place can change the preference. The correct response is to rebuild the named alternative and its cost, not quietly raise the total while preserving the original recommendation's headline.

ANALYSIS / 19

Every batting and defensive assignment has an owner

The season model assigns 6,200 plate appearances across a rotating group. It is not an Opening Day roster with twenty hitters active simultaneously. The principal group leaves room for a second catcher, a defensive outfielder and infield coverage. Serven, Buelvas and other depth candidates enter through actual selections, options or replacements rather than occupying imaginary extra active-roster places.

Hitter	PA	Condition
Shea Langeliers	480	Health, performance and seasonal rotation
Jonah Heim	180	Proposed signing
Brian Serven	40	Selection and readiness

Hitter	PA	Condition
Nick Kurtz	550	Health, performance and seasonal rotation
Tyler Soderstrom	450	Health, performance and seasonal rotation
Brent Rooker	450	Health, performance and seasonal rotation
Jacob Wilson	400	Health, performance and seasonal rotation
Zack Gelof	500	Health, performance and seasonal rotation
Max Muncy	300	Health, performance and seasonal rotation
Tommy White	300	Health, performance and seasonal rotation
Joshua Kuroda-Grauer	350	Health, performance and seasonal rotation
Darell Hernaiz	200	Health, performance and seasonal rotation
Alika Williams	200	Health, performance and seasonal rotation
Donovan Walton	100	Health, performance and seasonal rotation
Lawrence Butler	500	Health, performance and seasonal rotation
Henry Bolte	500	Health, performance and seasonal rotation
Denzel Clarke	200	Health, performance and seasonal rotation
Carlos Cortes	200	Health, performance and seasonal rotation
Nate Eaton	200	Health, performance and seasonal rotation
Brayan Buelvas	100	Selection and readiness
TOTAL	6200	Season-long, not simultaneous active roster

The defensive budget assigns 162 starts at each position. Kurtz has 130 at first base, Wilson 95 at shortstop and Gelof 120 at second. The shorter Wilson allocation reflects the need for recovery and coverage, not a conclusion that his recent plus-9 OAA is unimportant. Williams, Hernaiz and Walton cover the remaining shortstop starts. No individual is assigned more than 162 combined starts.

Pos.	162-start allocation	Condition
C	Langeliers 110; Heim 42; Serven 10	Season plan; recovery branches separately tested
1B	Kurtz 130; Soderstrom 20; Cortes 12	Season plan; recovery branches separately tested
2B	Gelof 120; Kuroda-Grauer 30; Walton 12	Season plan; recovery branches separately tested
3B	Muncy 60; White 55; Hernaiz 30; Kuroda-Grauer 17	Season plan; recovery branches separately tested
SS	Wilson 95; Williams 40; Hernaiz 15; Walton 12	Season plan; recovery branches separately tested
LF	Soderstrom 95; Bolte 25; Cortes 30; Buelvas 12	Season plan; recovery branches separately tested

Pos.	162-start allocation	Condition
CF	Bolte 100; Clarke 42; Eaton 20	Season plan; recovery branches separately tested
RF	Butler 125; Eaton 25; Buelvas 12	Season plan; recovery branches separately tested
DH	Rooker 105; Kurtz 10; Langeliers 5; Gelof 10; Soderstrom 15; Cortes 5; Muncy 7; White 5	Season plan; recovery branches separately tested

The crowded corner and designated-hitter group is a reason to resist an additional bat without a clear displacement plan. Rooker has 105 designated-hitter starts. Soderstrom moves among left field, first base and DH. Muncy and White have limited DH work as well as third-base opportunities. Adding another regular would reduce one or more of those assignments, and the club should identify whose development or production it is choosing to replace.

ANALYSIS / 20

The innings balance without counting swing pitchers twice

The preferred rotation supplies 162 starts and 855 innings. Mahle and Soroka contribute 275; Ginn, Severino and Lopez another 365. Jump, Perkins, Arnold and Morris cover the remaining 215. The purchased innings reduce the need to force every young pitcher into a full-season rotation job immediately.

Pitcher	GS / IP	Condition
Tyler Mahle	28 / 150	Proposed agreement; current health review
Michael Soroka	24 / 125	Proposed agreement; current health review
J.T. Ginn	24 / 130	Current health, command and performance
Luis Severino	20 / 105	Current health, command and performance
Jacob Lopez	24 / 130	Current health, command and performance
Gage Jump	18 / 95	Current health, command and performance
Jack Perkins	12 / 60	Current health, command and performance
Jamie Arnold	8 / 40	Selection and fracture recovery
Kade Morris	4 / 20	Current health, command and performance
TOTAL	162 / 855	No main innings from Hoglund, Morales or Nett

The relief budget supplies 585 innings, bringing the planning total to 1,440. Perkins has 60 starter innings and 35 relief innings, for 95 combined. Morris has 20 and 25, for 45 combined. Basso and Barnett initially work in relief, then take starting assignments in the internal alternative. Their combined workloads are checked across both roles.

Pitcher	IP	Condition
Luis Medina	80	Combined starting and relief workloads checked
Hogan Harris	80	Combined starting and relief workloads checked
Elvis Alvarado	60	Combined starting and relief workloads checked
Scott Blewett	55	Combined starting and relief workloads checked
Justin Sterner	45	Knee recovery required
Jack Perkins	35	Combined starting and relief workloads checked
Brady Basso	55	Combined starting and relief workloads checked
Mason Barnett	45	Combined starting and relief workloads checked
Seth Johnson	40	Combined starting and relief workloads checked
Chris Roycroft	35	Combined starting and relief workloads checked
Kade Morris	25	Combined starting and relief workloads checked
Yunior Tur	15	Combined starting and relief workloads checked
Drew Rom	15	Combined starting and relief workloads checked
TOTAL	585	855 starting +585 relief =1,440 IP

The 1,440-inning figure is a planning convention. The actual 2026 staff threw 1,430, reflecting how completed games ended. The model is not claiming that every future game lasts exactly nine defensive innings. Its purpose is to prevent a roster proposal from assigning a full rotation and then forgetting the relief burden or counting the same pitcher twice.

ANALYSIS / 21

Failed signings and failed recoveries have different consequences

Without Mahle, Lopez adds six starts and 35 innings, Jump eight and 40, Perkins eight and 40, and Morris six and 35. Without Soroka, Arnold adds ten starts and 50 innings, Basso eight and 40, and Barnett six and 35. Combined, the internal plan still accounts for 162 starts and 1,440 total innings. Its arithmetic is complete; its readiness is less secure.

Change from A	Removed workload	Named replacement
B: Martinez for Mahle	28 starts /150 IP	Martinez28/160; Lopez loses10 IP, same24 starts
C: no Mahle	28 starts /150 IP	Lopez+6/35; Jump+8/40; Perkins+8/40; Morris+6/35
C: no Soroka	24 starts /125 IP	Arnold+10/50; Basso+8/40; Barnett+6/35
C: no Heim	180 PA;42 C starts	Serven+120PA/30 C; Lavastida+60PA/12 C, selection required

Change from A	Removed workload	Named replacement
No Ginn or Severino after C	44 starts /235 IP	Lopez+2/10; Jump+4/20; Perkins+6/30; Morris+6/30; Arnold+8/40; Basso+6/35; Barnett+6/35; Nett+6/35
No Arnold in A	8 starts /40 IP	Morris+4/20; Basso+4/20
No Sterner	45 relief IP	Alvarado+10; Blewett+10; Johnson+10; Roycroft+10; Rom+5
No Rooker	450 PA;105 DH	Cortes+150PA/40 DH; Soderstrom+100/20 DH; Kurtz+100/20 DH; White+100/25 DH
No Wilson	400 PA;95 SS	Williams+200PA/45 SS; Hernaiz+150/40 SS; Walton+50/10 SS
No Soderstrom	450 PA;95 LF/20 1B/15 DH	Cortes+150PA/30 LF/10 1B; Eaton+150/35 LF; Buelvas+100/30 LF; White+50/10 1B/15 DH
No Muncy	300 PA;60 3B/7 DH	White+150PA/35 3B/7 DH; Hernaiz+100/20 3B; Kuroda-Grauer+50/5 3B
Multiple hitter failures	Combined replanning	Individual branches are not automatically additive; named reserves must remain available

The combined loss of Ginn and Severino after the no-acquisition choice is a severe stress test. It removes another 44 starts and 235 innings. The named replacement branch pushes Lopez, Jump, Perkins, Morris, Arnold, Basso and Barnett harder and introduces Nett for six starts and 35 innings. Nett's recent walk rate makes that a conspicuously weak fallback. The table shows why the club should not describe the internal route as equivalent insurance.

The hitter branches are also explicit. A missing Rooker shifts 450 plate appearances and 105 DH starts to Cortes, Soderstrom, Kurtz and White. A missing Wilson moves shortstop work to Williams, Hernaiz and Walton. Soderstrom and Muncy have their own named replacements. These are individual branches; simultaneous absences would require a combined allocation because the same backups cannot perform overlapping jobs without limit.

The 40-name roster creates another concrete constraint. Three proposed signings and later selections require actual corresponding places. Walton, Cortes and lower-leverage pitching depth are candidates for a roster-priority review, not assumed trade value or automatic removals. No option availability, outright acceptance or injured-list exemption is invented. The club must complete the corresponding legal roster transactions before executing this acquisition plan.

ANALYSIS / 22

A smaller deficit still leaves a demanding climb

Holding offense at 699 runs while reducing runs allowed by 80 produces a minus-158 margin. Scoring 40 more and allowing 100 fewer still leaves minus-98. Even a 60-run offensive improvement paired with 160 fewer allowed leaves minus-18. These arithmetic examples explain why the recommendation focuses on a broad prevention improvement rather than a promise that two signings solve a 238-run deficit.

Illustration, not forecast	RS / RA	Margin	Simple run-ratio wins
2026 baseline	699 / 937	-238	57.9
Allow80 fewer; same offense	699 / 857	-158	64.7
Score40 more; allow100 fewer	739 / 837	-98	71.0
Score60 more; allow160 fewer	759 / 777	-18	79.1
Score80 more; allow220 fewer	779 / 717	+62	87.7

The simple run-ratio illustration uses 162 times runs scored squared divided by the sum of runs scored squared and runs allowed squared. It is a descriptive comparison, not a calibrated projection or a playoff probability. It does not incorporate schedule, injuries, sequencing, park adjustments or future roster changes. Its useful message is the size of the improvement required.

The strongest objection to the preferred plan is that spending $30-37 million more may still leave a losing club. That is a serious possibility. The case for spending rests on buying enough credible innings to evaluate and support a young lineup, while avoiding longer or more expensive commitments than the identified jobs warrant. If the current medical review undermines those workloads, the money should remain uncommitted until a better alternative is defined.

The recommendation is therefore specific: correct the existing payroll, resolve the major recovery questions, pursue Mahle and Soroka within the stated ceilings, and fill the second catching job modestly. Keep the young hitters' assignments competitive. Review command and defensive deployment early. Do not spend a prospect's hoped-for future or an injured player's hoped-for return before the evidence supports it.

ANALYSIS / 23

Player register, definitions and sources

The major-roster table is a November 3 snapshot. The research register separately preserves the identities, transactions and classifications of current players, organizational prospects, departed contributors and proposed external acquisitions. Free-agent transaction records take precedence over a stale current-team field. Administrative activation is recorded separately from medical readiness.

Player / MLB ID	Pos.	Snapshot treatment
Alika Williams / 675961	SS	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Braden Nett / 804556	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Brady Basso / 669620	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Brent Rooker / 667670	DH	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Carlos Cortes / 666126	RF	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Chris Roycroft / 688297	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Darell Hernaiz / 687231	SS	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Denzel Clarke / 672016	CF	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Donovan Walton / 622268	2B	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Drew Rom / 680723	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Elvis Alvarado / 665660	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Gage Jump / 695611	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Gunnar Hoglund / 680684	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Hayden Juenger / 696522	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Henry Bolte / 703607	CF	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Hogan Harris / 663687	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Hunter Bigge / 685801	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
J.T. Ginn / 669372	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Jack Perkins / 678022	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Jacob Lopez / 682052	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Jacob Wilson / 805779	SS	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Joe Rock / 697812	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Joshua Kuroda-Grauer / 811965	3B	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Justin Sterner / 686993	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Kade Morris / 695034	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed

Player / MLB ID	Pos.	Snapshot treatment
Lawrence Butler / 671732	RF	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Luis Medina / 665622	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Luis Morales / 806960	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Luis Severino / 622663	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Mason Barnett / 686930	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Max Muncy / 691777	3B	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Nate Eaton / 681987	LF	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Nick Kurtz / 701762	1B	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Scott Blewett / 656240	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Seth Johnson / 686751	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Shea Langeliers / 669127	C	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Tommy White / 695720	1B	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Tyler Soderstrom / 691016	LF	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Yunior Tur / 814305	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Zack Gelof / 680869	3B	40-name roster; no empty place assumed

Club batting and pitching tables use Athletics-only completed 2026 regular-season samples. Candidate, trend, expected-statistic and handedness tables use the stated full MLB season where available. Minor-league levels remain separate. Baseball innings notation records outs: 138.1 means 138 innings and one out, not 138.1 decimal innings. No postseason performance is blended into the regular-season analysis.

Outs Above Average measures range within its stated opportunities. Framing and total catching value overlap and are not added. Expected batting statistics and xERA describe observed contact and outcomes; they do not supply forecasts or diagnoses. Contract allocations, annual additions, multiyear commitments, unsigned arbitration estimates and cash-payment timing are distinct throughout the financial analysis.

[1] MLB: Athletics regular-season statistics

Completed2024-26 seasons; full-league records saved separately.

Open source

[2] MLB: Athletics completed game log

162 regular-season finals; close-game records calculated from finals.

Open source

[3] MLB: dated Athletics major roster

40 current names; no empty roster places assumed.

Open source

[4] MLB: Athletics transactions

Individual transaction histories, trades and free agency reconciled.

Open source

[5] MLB: player statistics and splits

Club-only samples separated from full MLB seasons and handedness splits.

Open source

[6] Baseball Savant: expected statistics

2024-26 batting and pitching files saved; descriptive expected measures.

Open source

[7] Baseball Savant: Outs Above Average

Three-year range evidence and opportunities.

Open source

[8] Baseball Savant: catcher framing

Full MLB framing, separate from Athletics innings.

Open source

[9] Baseball Savant: fielding run value

Catching values overlap framing; do not sum.

Open source

[10] FanGraphs RosterResource: Athletics payroll

2027 allocations, options, buyouts, credits and arbitration aggregate. Headline corrected explicitly.

Open source

[11] MLB: Athletics injury and roster update

Dated recovery reports separated from administrative activations.

Open source

[12] Athletics: Severino original agreement

Original two-year agreement and2027 player option; current exercise checked separately.

Open source

[13] MLB: Wilson extension

Seven-year agreement through2032,2033 option; current salary allocation from payroll source.

Open source

[14] MLB: Athletics home-road records

Actual home-road outcomes, not a park-adjusted talent estimate.

Open source

[15] MLB: Las Vegas statistics

Triple-A batting and pitching records saved separately.

Open source

[16] MLB: Midland statistics

Double-A samples; current prospects and individual transactions also saved.

Open source

[17] MLB Trade Rumors, syndicated by Yardbarker: arbitration estimates

Four unsigned Athletics estimates sum to15.3M.

Open source

[18] MLB:2027 options and opt-outs

Severino exercise and declined Springs/McNeil options.

Open source

[19] MLB: Athletics organizational roster

Organizational minors distinguished from current major roster.

Open source

[20] MLB Pipeline: Athletics prospects

Prospect identities and levels; ranking is not readiness.

Open source

[21] Stadium & Street: cross-club series

Cross-club comparisons by exact job, displaced workload, price ceiling and internal alternative. Shared candidates are competing scenarios.

Open source

Research, roster and candidate checks were completed November 3, 2026. Individual source dates and statistical periods are preserved above.