STADIUM & STREET

THE 2027 ROSTER PROJECT / ATLANTA BRAVES

Atlanta must protect the innings behind 94 wins

Keep the shortstop. Preserve dependable starts.

94	+116	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.

stadiumandstreet.com

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.

01. The decision / 3
02. What changed in 2026 / 4
03. Separate the roster from last season's contributors / 5
04. The lineup has a strong middle and several distinct problems / 7
05. Use the contract core without making the contracts the argument / 8
06. Contact quality changes the rebound argument / 9
07. Platoon work should solve a real weakness / 10
08. Protect the fielding strengths and acknowledge the costs / 11
09. Baldwin and Murphy can share a real catching plan / 12
10. Sale's value includes preserving the conditions around him / 12
11. Rehabilitation cannot fill an innings spreadsheet by itself / 13
12. The bullpen needs depth more than a second expensive label / 14
13. The minors can provide specific help / 15
14. Buy the job, then compare the candidates / 16
15. Shared names have different consequences across clubs / 17
16. Reconcile the money before describing flexibility / 18
17. Three plans with funded differences / 19
18. Assign the plate appearances / 20
19. Assign all 162 starts and the relief behind them / 22
20. The fallback has to name the work / 23
21. How much prevention can Atlanta afford to lose? / 24
22. Decisions that should change the plan / 25
23. The verdict / 26

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

Atlanta should spend first on keeping a credible shortstop and a dependable rotation together. The preferred plan retains Mauricio Dubón and Tyler Mahle, adds Taylor Clarke for a defined relief workload and purchases a modest Randal Grichuk corner-outfield role. It preserves the existing core without making another successful season depend on multiple injured pitchers returning together.

That recommendation follows the shape of the improvement. The Braves went from 76 wins to 94 while scoring only 18 additional runs. They allowed 108 fewer. An offseason centered entirely on the lineup would miss the largest source of their success and the largest risk to repeating it.

The proposed annual additions total $42-52 million, including a $6-8 million depth reserve. With the existing salary, arbitration and roster-pool bridge, the preferred allocation is $254.45-268.45 million. These are editorial negotiating limits, not reported offers or an ownership budget. Every purchase has a specific job, a displaced workload and an alternative if the agreement does not happen.

ANALYSIS / 02

What changed in 2026

Atlanta finished 94-68 with 742 runs scored and 626 allowed, a plus-116 margin. The prior season's margin was minus-10. The resulting 126-run improvement was overwhelmingly a prevention story. Team OPS scarcely moved, from .719 to .718, while ERA fell from 4.36 to 3.63.

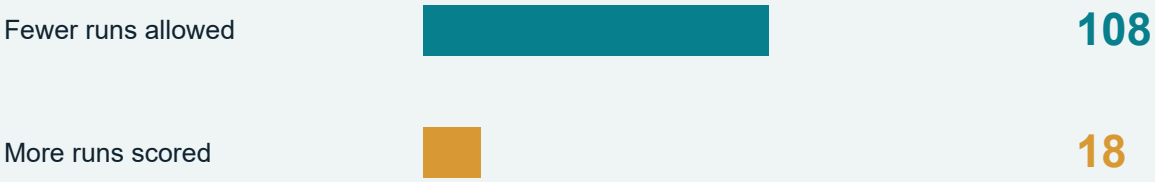
The three-year view is useful. The 2024 Braves also prevented runs well, allowing 607, but scored only 704. This roster has demonstrated more than one way to contend. It has not established that every part of the latest pitching performance is repeatable. Distinguishing stable skills from a strong one-year result is more useful than asking the same players simply to reproduce 94 wins.

The official completed-game log produces a 27-21 record in one-run games and an 8-6 extra-inning record. A simple squared-run-ratio calculation gives 94.6 wins from the season's scoring totals. The actual record was therefore broadly consistent with the run margin. There is no need to explain the season primarily through close-game luck.

Season	Record	Runs for / against	Margin	OPS / ERA
2024	89-73	704 / 607	+97	.724 / 3.49
2025	76-86	724 / 734	-10	.719 / 4.36
2026	94-68	742 / 626	+116	.718 / 3.63

108 FEWER RUNS ALLOWED

2025 margin: -10 / 2026 margin: +116



The run margin improved by 126; the win total rose by 18.

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

ANALYSIS / 03

Separate the roster from last season's contributors

The dated 40-man response contains 35 players. Mitchell Parker is a current Brave after the November 2 waiver claim from Washington. Dubón, Mahle, Martín Pérez, Raisel Iglesias and Ha-Seong Kim are free agents. A familiar name in the 2026 statistics is not an existing 2027 roster slot.

One source discrepancy matters. The API still labels Spencer Strider as being on the 60-day injured list. Atlanta's October 29 announcement explicitly reinstated him. This analysis uses the club announcement for that administrative status and retains the separate medical uncertainty. A roster reinstatement is not a statement that he can supply a full season of starts.

Jurickson Profar requires a separate category. He is absent from the dated 40-man response, has a winter-league assignment in the player feed and remains listed with a $15 million 2027 obligation in the contract source. MLB announced a 162-game unpaid suspension in March. His eligibility and roster return must be confirmed before using the conditional workload below. The budget retains his cost even in the no-return branch.

Player / MLB ID	Position	Snapshot treatment
AJ Smith-Shawver / 700363	P	Current 40-man; readiness separate
Austin Riley / 663586	3B	Current 40-man; readiness separate
Blake Burkhalter / 686628	P	Current 40-man; readiness separate
Brett Wisely / 689172	2B	Current 40-man; readiness separate
Brewer Hicklen / 676551	RF	Current 40-man; readiness separate
Bryce Elder / 693821	P	Current 40-man; readiness separate
Chris Sale / 519242	P	Current 40-man; readiness separate
Danny Young / 664849	P	Current 40-man; readiness separate
Didier Fuentes / 800311	P	Current 40-man; readiness separate
Drake Baldwin / 686948	C	Current 40-man; readiness separate
Dylan Dodd / 689266	P	Current 40-man; readiness separate
Dylan Lee / 669276	P	Current 40-man; readiness separate
Grant Holmes / 656550	P	Current 40-man; readiness separate
Hurston Waldrep / 694462	P	Current 40-man; readiness separate
JR Ritchie / 702275	P	Current 40-man; readiness separate
James Karinchak / 675916	P	Current 40-man; readiness separate
Jim Jarvis / 805347	SS	Current 40-man; readiness separate
Joey Wentz / 666214	P	Current 40-man; readiness separate

Player / MLB ID	Position	Snapshot treatment
Matt Olson / 621566	1B	Current 40-man; readiness separate
Michael Grove / 675627	P	Current 40-man; readiness separate
Michael Harris II / 671739	CF	Current 40-man; readiness separate
Mike Yastrzemski / 573262	LF	Current 40-man; readiness separate
Mitchell Parker / 680730	P	Current 40-man; readiness separate
Owen Murphy / 702566	P	Current 40-man; readiness separate
Ozzie Albies / 645277	2B	Current 40-man; readiness separate
Ray Kerr / 678061	P	Current 40-man; readiness separate
Reynaldo López / 625643	P	Current 40-man; readiness separate
Robert Suarez / 663158	P	Current 40-man; readiness separate
Rolddy Muñoz / 691548	P	Current 40-man; readiness separate
Ronald Acuña Jr. / 660670	RF	Current 40-man; readiness separate
Sean Murphy / 669221	C	Current 40-man; readiness separate
Spencer Schwellenbach / 680885	P	Current 40-man; readiness separate
Spencer Strider / 675911	P	Oct.29 club reinstatement overrides stale D60
Tyler Uberstine / 700413	P	Current 40-man; readiness separate
Victor Mederos / 682989	P	Current 40-man; readiness separate

Player / MLB ID	Latest relevant transaction	2027 treatment
Mauricio Dubón / 643289	2026-10-29: 2B Mauricio Dubón elected free agency.	Proposed retention
Tyler Mahle / 641816	2026-10-29: RHP Tyler Mahle elected free agency.	Proposed retention
Martín Pérez / 527048	2026-10-29: LHP Martín Pérez elected free agency.	No retained main-plan workload
Raisel Iglesias / 628452	2026-10-29: RHP Raisel Iglesias elected free agency.	No retained main-plan workload
Ha-Seong Kim / 673490	2026-10-29: SS Ha-Seong Kim elected free agency.	No retained main-plan workload
Lane Thomas / 657041	2026-10-29: RF Lane Thomas elected free agency.	No retained main-plan workload
Brent Suter / 608718	2026-10-29: LHP Brent Suter elected free agency.	No retained main-plan workload
Anthony Molina / 683627	2026-08-24: San Francisco Giants recalled RHP Anthony Molina from Sacramento River Cats.	No retained main-plan workload
Luke Williams / 663897	2026-10-15: SS Luke Williams elected free agency.	No retained main-plan workload

Player / MLB ID	Latest relevant transaction	2027 treatment
Jurickson Profar / 595777	2026-10-20: LF Jurickson Profar assigned to Tiburones de La Guaira.	Contract reserve; conditional return, not a free agent

ANALYSIS / 04

The lineup has a strong middle and several distinct problems

Matt Olson's 41 homers and .823 OPS supplied dependable power across 698 plate appearances. Michael Harris II added 26 homers and an .812 OPS. Drake Baldwin produced 25 homers and an .817 OPS. Those are three substantial offensive pieces at first base, center field and catcher, positions that create very different replacement costs.

The weak spots should not be bundled together. Austin Riley's .654 OPS over 630 plate appearances is a large-sample production problem. Ozzie Albies' .685 OPS came with 22 homers and full-season availability, but not an accompanying strong on-base profile. Sean Murphy's .556 OPS came in only 121 plate appearances after injuries. The first two call for a serious performance review; the third also requires a workload and recovery assessment.

Ronald Acuña Jr. remained productive with a .796 OPS in 469 plate appearances. His absence for part of the year creates a different planning problem from Riley's full-season decline. Atlanta needs a credible way to cover Acuña's missed games and use designated-hitter days without assuming that 650 healthy plate appearances will arrive automatically.

Player / MLB ID	ATL PA	AVG / OBP / SLG	HR	BB / K
Matt Olson / 621566	698	.251 / .321 / .502	41	64 / 171
Ozzie Albies / 645277	683	.237 / .293 / .392	22	46 / 105
Austin Riley / 663586	630	.219 / .290 / .364	19	48 / 201
Michael Harris II / 671739	621	.294 / .321 / .491	26	23 / 119
Drake Baldwin / 686948	615	.284 / .358 / .459	25	55 / 132
Ronald Acuña Jr. / 660670	469	.255 / .345 / .451	20	53 / 103
Mike Yastrzemski / 573262	408	.224 / .309 / .380	12	41 / 98
Sean Murphy / 669221	121	.182 / .256 / .300	3	11 / 37
Jim Jarvis / 805347	124	.207 / .267 / .297	1	8 / 23
Mauricio Dubón / 643289	619	.276 / .321 / .399	12	35 / 73
Ha-Seong Kim / 673490	147	.116 / .219 / .140	0	16 / 38
Dominic Smith / 642086	300	.253 / .311 / .383	9	23 / 48

ANALYSIS / 05

Use the contract core without making the contracts the argument

Olson, Riley, Harris, Acuña and Albies will occupy important jobs because of their skills and the structure of this roster. Their contracts do not require identical workloads. Olson's everyday role is supported by current production and defense. Riley should still receive a substantial chance to recover, but the club needs a usable third-base reserve rather than a ceremonial backup.

Baldwin's two MLB seasons create a stronger offensive foundation than a single hot month. His 2025 expected and observed production were close, and the 2026 expected line improved further. Harris recovered from a weaker 2025 hitting season while retaining meaningful defensive value. Those trajectories support maintaining their jobs rather than purchasing replacements at positions already occupied by capable players.

Riley's three-year progression is less reassuring. His expected weighted on-base average fell from .367 in 2024 to .330 in 2025 and .299 in 2026. A plan built on a return to his earlier peak would be paying twice for improvement that has not happened: once through the existing contract and again through optimistic lineup projections.

Hitter	2024 MLB PA / OPS	2025 MLB PA / OPS	2026 MLB PA / OPS
Matt Olson	685 / .790	724 / .850	698 / .823
Ozzie Albies	435 / .707	667 / .671	683 / .685
Austin Riley	469 / .783	447 / .737	630 / .654
Michael Harris II	470 / .722	641 / .677	621 / .812
Drake Baldwin	No MLB season	446 / .810	615 / .817
Ronald Acuña Jr.	222 / .716	412 / .935	469 / .796
Mike Yastrzemski	474 / .739	558 / .736	408 / .689
Sean Murphy	264 / .636	337 / .709	121 / .556
Jim Jarvis	No MLB season	No MLB season	124 / .564
Mauricio Dubón	428 / .657	398 / .644	619 / .720
Ha-Seong Kim	470 / .700	191 / .649	147 / .359
Dominic Smith	307 / .691	225 / .750	300 / .694

ANALYSIS / 06

Contact quality changes the rebound argument

Olson's .351 wOBA and .351 xwOBA agree almost exactly. Baldwin's .358 wOBA trails his .370 expected mark, while Acuña's .348 trails .366. Those comparisons support the quality of the contact and outcomes that remain in the lineup. They do not guarantee that the difference will become future production.

Albies presents the opposite warning. His .298 wOBA exceeded a .273 expected mark. The low expected production makes it difficult to argue that his results merely concealed a much stronger offensive season. His $7 million exercised option can still be useful value, especially with his availability and position, but the lineup should not rely on him supplying a major offensive surge.

Riley's .290 wOBA and .299 expected mark offer a modest gap, not a concealed star season. Harris' .349 and .342 are close enough to support a more balanced reading of his improvement. Expected statistics describe contact, walks and strikeouts under the model's assumptions. They are not medical evidence, a defensive evaluation or a 2027 projection.

Batter / full MLB year	wOBA	xwOBA	SLG / xSLG
Matt Olson	0.351	0.351	0.502 / 0.503
Ozzie Albies	0.298	0.273	0.392 / 0.337
Austin Riley	0.290	0.299	0.364 / 0.396
Michael Harris II	0.349	0.342	0.491 / 0.477
Drake Baldwin	0.358	0.370	0.459 / 0.505
Ronald Acuña Jr.	0.348	0.366	0.451 / 0.495
Mike Yastrzemski	0.306	0.309	0.380 / 0.368
Sean Murphy	0.252	0.273	0.300 / 0.332
Jim Jarvis	0.254	0.268	0.297 / 0.304
Mauricio Dubón	0.317	0.304	0.399 / 0.375
Ha-Seong Kim	0.180	0.222	0.140 / 0.206
Dominic Smith	0.304	0.301	0.383 / 0.378

ANALYSIS / 07

Platoon work should solve a real weakness

Olson's OPS was .824 against left-handers and .823 against right-handers. Harris produced .780 and .830. Neither needs an automatic platoon. Diverting meaningful plate appearances from them to a generic opposite-handed bat would weaken the value of having complete everyday players.

Baldwin's split, .695 against left-handers and .888 against right-handers, supports selective rest against difficult lefties. It does not justify removing a productive young catcher from every such matchup. Murphy's 34 plate appearances against left-handers are far too few, particularly within an interrupted season, to treat his .370 OPS as an established platoon talent level.

The corner-outfield case is more direct. Yastrzemski had just 40 plate appearances against left-handers and a .697 OPS in 368 against right-handers. Grichuk can cover a defined right-handed role, but the purchase should remain modest. Atlanta would be buying a useful complement and injury cover, not an everyday solution to every corner-outfield problem.

Batter / full MLB season	LHP PA / OPS	RHP PA / OPS
Matt Olson	280 / .824	418 / .823
Ozzie Albies	261 / .727	422 / .657
Austin Riley	184 / .663	446 / .651
Michael Harris II	224 / .780	397 / .830
Drake Baldwin	224 / .695	391 / .888
Ronald Acuña Jr.	145 / .749	324 / .817
Mike Yastrzemski	40 / .614	368 / .697
Sean Murphy	34 / .370	87 / .629
Jim Jarvis	23 / .567	101 / .562
Mauricio Dubón	210 / .675	409 / .743
Ha-Seong Kim	66 / .249	81 / .452
Dominic Smith	39 / .413	261 / .735

ANALYSIS / 08

Protect the fielding strengths and acknowledge the costs

Harris' OAA sequence of plus-7, plus-8 and plus-13 supports keeping him in center field. Olson's plus-4, plus-9 and plus-12 provides a similarly consistent positive record at first base. These are strengths around which to arrange the rest of the defense, not reasons to move either player merely to accommodate another purchase.

Acuña's corresponding sequence is minus-3, minus-11 and minus-10. The proposed plan gives him 110 right-field starts and 30 at designated hitter. That is a workload decision intended to reduce defensive exposure and preserve flexibility. It does not diagnose his legs or predict how his range will respond to another offseason.

Dubón's three-year OAA record is plus-10, plus-19 and plus-6 across multiple positions. The versatility is valuable, but those totals are not all shortstop defense. The proposed 130-start shortstop assignment requires specific review of his performance there. Jarvis' zero OAA in 135 opportunities is a small neutral sample, not proof that he can replace a veteran over 150 starts. Crawford's consecutive minus-13 seasons make that alternative particularly expensive in defensive terms.

Fielder	2024 OAA	2025 OAA	2026 OAA	2026 opportunities
Matt Olson	+4	+9	+12	399
Ozzie Albies	-2	-5	+1	577
Austin Riley	-3	-1	+2	497
Michael Harris II	+7	+8	+13	407
Ronald Acuña Jr.	-3	-11	-10	248
Mike Yastrzemski	+0	-3	-2	233
Jim Jarvis	No row	No row	+0	135
Brett Wisely	+5	+0	No row	No row
Mauricio Dubón	+10	+19	+6	449
Ha-Seong Kim	+4	-3	-2	169
J.P. Crawford	+1	-13	-13	383
Randal Grichuk	-1	-2	+0	86
Jurickson Profar	-6	-6	No row	No row

ANALYSIS / 09

Baldwin and Murphy can share a real catching plan

The proposed catching allocation gives Baldwin 115 starts and Murphy 47. Baldwin also receives 25 designated-hitter starts, preserving access to his bat while managing catching workload. Murphy receives seven DH starts. These are season totals rather than a fixed weekly schedule, and they require continuing review of both catchers' recovery and performance.

Baldwin's framing value was approximately plus-2 runs, but his overall catching value was about minus-1.3. Those measures are not interchangeable. The latter also incorporates other catching contributions. Murphy has a negative framing figure in the saved data but no corresponding full catching-value row. That missing row is unknown, not zero.

If Murphy cannot provide the proposed 300 plate appearances, the contingency assigns Jair Camargo 250 after roster selection, with 47 catching starts, and McCabe another 50 plate appearances with seven DH starts. That is a materially weaker alternative and should trigger a search for a verified available catcher within the reserve. No unnamed replacement is credited with production in advance.

Catcher	2026 ATL catching IP	Full MLB framing	Full MLB catching value
Drake Baldwin	690.2	+2.01	-1.33
Sean Murphy	278.2	-1.30	Unknown
Jair Camargo	2.0	-0.02	Unknown

ANALYSIS / 10

Sale's value includes preserving the conditions around him

Chris Sale supplied a 2.16 ERA across 162.2 innings and 27 starts. The preferred 2027 allocation keeps him at 27 starts and 165 innings. Increasing his expected workload because other starters are uncertain would undermine the structure that makes retaining him useful. The $27 million 2027 extension belongs in the budget, but its price is not a reason to demand 200 innings.

Holmes and Elder supplied 151.2 and 149 innings. Their underlying evidence differs. Elder's 4.11 ERA and 4.15 xERA are close. Holmes' 3.44 ERA sits well below a 5.05 xERA. Holmes still merits a rotation role, but Atlanta should carry enough depth to respond if his results move toward the contact-quality warning.

Mahle's Atlanta-only 1.99 ERA in 54.1 innings is not the proper basis for pricing him. His full 149-inning MLB season produced a 3.99 ERA and 3.95 xERA. That is the version of the pitcher the preferred plan buys: a useful middle-rotation workload, not an ace inferred from a nine-start stretch.

Pitcher / MLB ID	GS / ATL IP	ERA / full MLB xERA	K / BB / HR	Planning treatment
Chris Sale / 519242	27 / 162.2	2.16 / 2.97	200 / 31 / 10	27 starts / 165 IP; preserve rest
Grant Holmes / 656550	29 / 151.2	3.44 / 5.05	115 / 62 / 22	28 / 155; contact-quality caution
Bryce Elder / 693821	26 / 149.0	4.11 / 4.15	121 / 49 / 24	27 / 150
Reynaldo López / 625643	13 / 79.1	4.54 / 4.82	73 / 34 / 11	12 / 60 after shoulder readiness
JR Ritchie / 702275	11 / 73.1	4.91 / 5.16	68 / 43 / 13	20 / 100; development
AJ Smith-Shawver / 700363	5 / 31.1	6.61 / 4.82	27 / 16 / 7	10 / 50; post-surgery progression
Didier Fuentes / 800311	1 / 73.1	2.45 / 3.15	92 / 21 / 6	10 / 50 plus 35 relief IP
Spencer Strider / 675911	8 / 39.0	5.31 / 3.52	46 / 20 / 9	No main-plan IP; elbow recovery
Spencer Schwellenbach / 680885	0 / 0	No ATL sample / No row	0 / 0 / 0	No main-plan IP; elbow recovery
Hurston Waldrep / 694462	2 / 10.2	8.44 / 5.65	9 / 10 / 3	No main-plan IP after Sept. surgery
Tyler Mahle / 641816	9 / 54.1	1.99 / 3.95	48 / 9 / 6	Free agent; proposed 28 / 155
Martín Pérez / 527048	26 / 142.0	3.04 / 4.51	102 / 62 / 14	Free agent; alternative only

ANALYSIS / 11

Rehabilitation cannot fill an innings spreadsheet by itself

Strider and Schwellenbach receive no main-plan innings. Waldrep also receives none after his September Tommy John surgery, and Wentz is outside the principal workload after missing the season with an ACL injury. Their eventual contributions would permit Atlanta to reduce exposure elsewhere. They should not be necessary to make the initial plan add up.

López receives only 12 starts and 60 innings, conditional on shoulder readiness. Ritchie receives 20 starts and 100 innings; Smith-Shawver receives ten and 50. Those allocations leave substantial work for healthy established starters while allowing the younger pitchers to develop. They are workload proposals, not promises that any pitcher can safely reach a particular total.

Fuentes is especially easy to misuse on paper. His 73.1 MLB innings were valuable, with a 2.45 ERA in the official club statistics and a 3.15 expected ERA in Savant. The plan assigns ten starts and 50 innings plus 35 relief innings, for 85 total. It does not count a full starter season and a full relief season from the same arm.

ANALYSIS / 12

The bullpen needs depth more than a second expensive label

Atlanta's relievers threw 598.2 innings with a 3.44 ERA. The preferred plan raises starter coverage from the previous 839.1 innings to 885 and budgets 555 in relief. A lower relief burden is an important part of the acquisition case for Mahle. Buying a closer while leaving the rotation exposed would address the most visible inning rather than the full workload.

Robert Suarez is under contract at $16 million for 2027. His 1.06 ERA came in 34 innings, with a 3.35 xERA and a season interrupted by right-elbow inflammation. He receives 50 proposed innings after a medical review. Lee's 3.09 ERA and 2.64 xERA offer stronger expected support. Dodd and Mederos have useful multi-inning roles, but their workloads still need to be earned.

Clarke is the modest outside addition. His 73 innings are relevant to the workload problem, though a 2.96 ERA against a 4.42 xERA limits the price. A one-year $4-6 million ceiling buys depth without assigning elite results. Iglesias remains a credible alternative, but a $10-12 million ceiling for him would require a different allocation. The preferred plan does not pay for two closers and quietly leave other innings unfilled.

Pitcher	ATL IP	ERA / full MLB xERA	K / BB	Treatment
Robert Suarez	34.0	1.06 / 3.35	26 / 6	50 IP after elbow check
Dylan Lee	67.0	3.09 / 2.64	77 / 17	60 IP; stronger expected evidence
Dylan Dodd	49.2	2.54 / 3.10	53 / 14	65 IP; bulk left-hander
Didier Fuentes	73.1	2.45 / 3.15	92 / 21	35 relief IP; 85 total
Ray Kerr	18.1	1.47 / 3.30	11 / 2	45 IP; small MLB sample
Victor Mederos	34.1	3.41 / 3.50	34 / 14	65 IP; multi-inning depth
James Karinchak	9.2	1.86 / 2.99	8 / 5	35 IP; walks/availability review
Michael Grove	0	No ATL sample / 8.47	0 / 0	20 IP; weak tiny sample
Rolddy Muñoz	2.0	13.50 / 8.62	3 / 1	25 IP; AAA evidence
Blake Burkhalter	1.0	9.00 / 7.12	1 / 1	40 IP; AAA evidence
Mitchell Parker	0	No ATL sample / 5.23	0 / 0	No main-plan IP; July 29 elbow surgery
Tyler Uberstine	0	No ATL sample / 6.39	0 / 0	25 IP; development
Owen Murphy	12.0	6.00 / 7.48	9 / 3	25 relief IP; AAA context
Raisel Iglesias	60.0	2.55 / 3.50	64 / 17	Free agent; no main-plan allocation

ANALYSIS / 13

The minors can provide specific help

Jarvis' Triple-A season included 62 walks against 75 strikeouts in 460 plate appearances, with an .823 OPS. His .564 MLB OPS in 124 plate appearances remains a reminder that the transition is unfinished. He receives 170 plate appearances in the preferred plan and becomes the central shortstop alternative if Dubón leaves. That is a meaningful development role, not a claim that he has already established himself.

Wisely's 517 Triple-A plate appearances produced an .835 OPS. Hicklen hit 18 homers with an .893 OPS in 402. McCabe's separate Double-A and Triple-A records show power, with 16 and four homers respectively. McCabe's proposed 80 plate appearances include first-base coverage supported by actual minor-league defensive work. He still needs a major-roster selection.

Ritchie, Owen Murphy, Burkhalter and Rolddy Muñoz offer useful pitching depth. The plan distinguishes their minor-league evidence from their brief MLB results. Caminiti's 31.1 Double-A innings and Gil's 161 Double-A plate appearances are development evidence. Neither is assigned an immediate MLB quota to make the offseason look cheaper. Clohisy is an outfield reserve to evaluate, not an automatic 2027 starter.

Player / MLB ID	2026 level and sample	Readiness decision
Jim Jarvis / 805347	AAA: 460 PA, .823 OPS, 6 HR; 62 BB / 75 K	170 main-plan PA; larger internal SS route
Brett Wisely / 689172	AAA: 517 PA, .835 OPS, 11 HR; 77 BB / 104 K	150 utility PA
Brewer Hicklen / 676551	AAA: 402 PA, .893 OPS, 18 HR; 37 BB / 93 K	30 PA; reserve corner/CF work
David McCabe / 678173	AAA: 105 PA, .867 OPS, 4 HR; 8 BB / 28 K	80 PA after selection; 1B depth
David McCabe / 678173	AA: 220 PA, .962 OPS, 16 HR; 29 BB / 54 K	Separate AA sample
Patrick Clohisy / 802117	AAA: 170 PA, .903 OPS, 3 HR; 21 BB / 38 K	Outfield reserve; no main-plan quota
Owen Murphy / 702566	AAA: 96.2 IP, 3.07 ERA; 94 K / 34 BB	25 MLB relief IP; alternate starter
JR Ritchie / 702275	AAA: 82.1 IP, 3.17 ERA; 89 K / 37 BB	100 MLB starter IP
Blake Burkhalter / 686628	AAA: 29.2 IP, 2.43 ERA; 33 K / 12 BB	40 MLB relief IP
Rolddy Muñoz / 691548	AAA: 51.2 IP, 3.31 ERA; 71 K / 27 BB	25 MLB relief IP
Cam Caminiti / 807284	AA: 31.1 IP, 2.01 ERA; 32 K / 16 BB	Development only; no 2027 MLB quota
John Gil / 808535	AA: 161 PA, .812 OPS, 2 HR; 15 BB / 27 K	Do not rush as immediate SS answer

ANALYSIS / 14

Buy the job, then compare the candidates

Dubón is the priority because shortstop is the clearest everyday opening. A three-year $36-42 million ceiling values a 600-plate-appearance role and 130 shortstop starts. It replaces Jarvis' larger fallback assignment and reduces pressure on Bruján and Wisely. The case is for a dependable job with defensive flexibility, not a prediction that Dubón will repeat every part of his .720 OPS.

Mahle's two-year $28-32 million ceiling supports 28 starts and 155 innings. Martinez is the direct alternative at two years and $26-30 million. His 180 innings, 3.10 ERA and 26 walks provide a different kind of dependability, although a 3.98 xERA and 109 strikeouts discourage paying for top-of-rotation dominance. Pérez is a lower-cost inquiry, with a recent back issue and a 4.51 xERA that matters more than his 3.04 ERA alone.

Kim's 147 plate appearances and .359 OPS make him a reclamation alternative rather than the funded everyday answer. Eflin's 3.2 MLB innings cannot support a principal rotation workload. Seager is a contracted Ranger, with no verified availability or agreed price. The analysis does not invent an outgoing package or treat Atlanta's young pitchers as someone else's accepted trade return.

Suzuki is the materially different offensive route. A four-year $80-92 million editorial ceiling would buy an everyday corner job, reducing Yastrzemski and Profar exposure and eliminating the Grichuk purchase. That commitment would compete with the shortstop and pitching budget. The preferred plan rejects it because solving those two needs first creates a more complete roster within a comparable overall allocation.

Candidate / MLB ID	Full 2026 MLB evidence	S&S ceiling / decision
Mauricio Dubón / 643289	619 PA, .720 OPS, 12 HR; 0.317/0.304 wOBA/xwOBA	A/B retention: 3 years / $36-42M; 600 PA, 130 SS starts
Tyler Mahle / 641816	149.0 IP, 3.99 ERA, 3.95 xERA; 137 K / 46 BB	A retention: 2 years / $28-32M; 28 starts / 155 IP
Nick Martinez / 607259	180.0 IP, 3.10 ERA, 3.98 xERA; 109 K / 26 BB	B alternative: 2 years / $26-30M; 30 starts / 165 IP
Taylor Clarke / 664199	73.0 IP, 2.96 ERA, 4.42 xERA; 45 K / 14 BB	A/B: 1 year / $4-6M; 65 relief IP
Randal Grichuk / 545341	280 PA, .880 OPS, 15 HR; 0.370/0.335 wOBA/xwOBA	A/B: 1 year / $6-8M; 300 PA; 54 corner starts / 20 DH
Martín Pérez / 527048	142.0 IP, 3.04 ERA, 4.51 xERA; 102 K / 62 BB	Fallback inquiry: 1 year / $5-7M; not funded; back/readiness gate
Ha-Seong Kim / 673490	147 PA, .359 OPS, 0 HR; 0.180/0.222 wOBA/xwOBA	Reclamation alternative only; 1 year / $5-7M ceiling; not funded
J.P. Crawford / 641487	489 PA, .687 OPS, 14 HR; 0.312/0.319 wOBA/xwOBA	Alternative SS, not funded; persistent range cost
Seiya Suzuki / 673548	634 PA, .841 OPS, 26 HR; 0.366/0.340 wOBA/xwOBA	Different everyday corner route; 4 years / $80-92M ceiling, not funded
Corey Seager / 608369	436 PA, .736 OPS, 20 HR; 0.320/0.350 wOBA/xwOBA	Contracted Ranger; no price or availability assumed; no funded trade

Candidate / MLB ID	Full 2026 MLB evidence	S&S ceiling / decision
Zach Eflin / 621107	3.2 IP, 2.45 ERA, 3.98 xERA; 7 K / 2 BB	3.2 MLB IP in 2026; no main-plan workload
Raisel Iglesias / 628452	60.0 IP, 2.55 ERA, 3.50 xERA; 64 K / 17 BB	Closer retention alternative; 1 year / $10-12M ceiling, not funded

ANALYSIS / 15

Shared names have different consequences across clubs

The Angels preparation also evaluates Mahle at two years and $28-32 million, for 150 innings. Atlanta uses the same price range for 155. The difference is role and opportunity cost: Atlanta is preserving Sale's rest and limiting exposure to uncertain returning starters, while the Angels are buying innings for a different development roster. Neither club's plan establishes that Mahle will accept the offer or remain available for the other.

Martinez appears in the published Brewers analysis and the private Rays and Royals work at two years and $26-30 million. Atlanta preserves that ceiling. Its alternative assigns 165 innings and reduces Ritchie's workload by ten, rather than adding Martinez on top of a fully occupied rotation. If Martinez signs elsewhere, the named internal branch becomes the operative comparison.

Clarke's one-year $4-6 million range matches the Angels and Royals preparations. Atlanta assigns him 65 relief innings and explicitly acknowledges the gap between ERA and xERA. Grichuk's $6-8 million range matches Seattle's smaller corner role. Philadelphia's published fallback range is $7-9 million; Atlanta's lower ceiling reflects the narrower job and the existing Yastrzemski/Profar commitments. These are club-specific limits, not separate market quotations.

No prospect cost is assigned to the preferred free-agent purchases. Any qualifying-offer compensation or future contractual condition must be checked at release. No trade proceeds are credited, and no candidate's unsigned production appears in the internal plan. The comparison rejects both repetition without reasoning and novelty for its own sake.

ANALYSIS / 16

Reconcile the money before describing flexibility

The twelve guaranteed, exercised-option and contract-reserve rows total $190 million for 2027. That includes Acuña's $17 million and Albies' $7 million exercised options, Sale's $27 million extension and the full $15 million Profar reserve. It does not deduct Profar's cost merely because his workload is conditional.

Five current-roster arbitration estimates total $11.2 million. Williams elected free agency on October 15, so the model excludes his prospective $0.9 million arbitration salary. The model carries the $1.25 million buyout identified in Kinley's January contract announcement. His later release and Detroit signing do not establish payment, a waiver or an offset, so none is assumed. A $10-14 million pool covers pre-arbitration salaries, minor-roster allocations and callups. The resulting base is $212.45-216.45 million.

RosterResource's $189.55 million 2027 headline uses a different treatment. Replacing the listed $10 million potential Acuña buyout with his $17 million salary adds seven. Adding Albies' exercised salary adds seven more. Replacing the source's $12.3 million arbitration total with $11.2 million for the five retained cases subtracts $1.1 million. The roster pool then produces this analysis's base. Without that bridge, apparent spending room would be overstated.

These figures are player-allocation estimates, not audited cash outflows or competitive-balance-tax payroll. Signing-bonus timing, benefits, tax treatment and the eventual 2027 rules require separate treatment. The 2026 source estimate of $258.596 million is useful context for the preferred plan's scale; it is not evidence that ownership has approved the 2027 amount.

Player / MLB ID	2027 allocation	Basis
Austin Riley / 663586	$22.00M	Guaranteed through 2032; later club option
Matt Olson / 621566	$22.00M	Guaranteed through 2029; later club option
Chris Sale / 519242	$27.00M	2027 extension; 2028 club option unexercised
Robert Suarez / 663158	$16.00M	Guaranteed through 2028
Ronald Acuña Jr. / 660670	$17.00M	2027 option exercised; 2028 option separate
Spencer Strider / 675911	$22.00M	Guaranteed through 2028; rehabilitation risk
Sean Murphy / 669221	$15.00M	Guaranteed through 2028; later option
Mike Yastrzemski / 573262	$10.00M	2027 salary; 2028 option separate
Reynaldo López / 625643	$8.00M	2027 salary; shoulder readiness separate
Michael Harris II / 671739	$9.00M	Long-term extension through 2030
Ozzie Albies / 645277	$7.00M	2027 option exercised
Jurickson Profar / 595777	$15.00M	Contract reserve; absent dated 40-man, return/eligibility must clear
TOTAL	$190.00M	Includes $15M Profar reserve; not CBT/cash schedule

Player	Estimate, $M	Treatment
Dylan Lee	4.20	Unsigned current-roster estimate
James Karinchak	1.10	Unsigned current-roster estimate
Joey Wentz	0.90	Unsigned current-roster estimate
Michael Grove	1.00	Unsigned current-roster estimate
Bryce Elder	4.00	Unsigned current-roster estimate
TOTAL	11.20	Five current-roster players; departed Williams excluded

Component	Annual allocation	Definition
12 guaranteed/option reserves	$190.00M	Includes exercised options and Profar contract
Five arbitration estimates	$11.20M	No non-tender savings assumed
Kinley buyout reserve	$1.25M	Carried $1.25M contractual buyout; no settlement or offset assumed
Pre-arb, minors and callups	$10-14M	Planning pool; no assumed 2027 minimum
Existing-roster envelope	$212.45-216.45M	S&S allocation bridge
RosterResource 2027 headline	$189.55M	Replace $10M Acuña potential buyout with $17M salary; add Albies $7M; adjust $12.3M arb to $11.2M excluding departed Williams; add pool
RosterResource 2026 estimate	$258.596332M	Historical allocation, not ownership-approved 2027 budget

ANALYSIS / 17

Three plans with funded differences

Plan A allocates $12-14 million annually to Dubón, $14-16 million to Mahle, $4-6 million to Clarke, $6-8 million to Grichuk and $6-8 million to the depth reserve. Annual additions total $42-52 million. New multiyear commitments plus the one-year reserve total $80-96 million. The full annual allocation is $254.45-268.45 million.

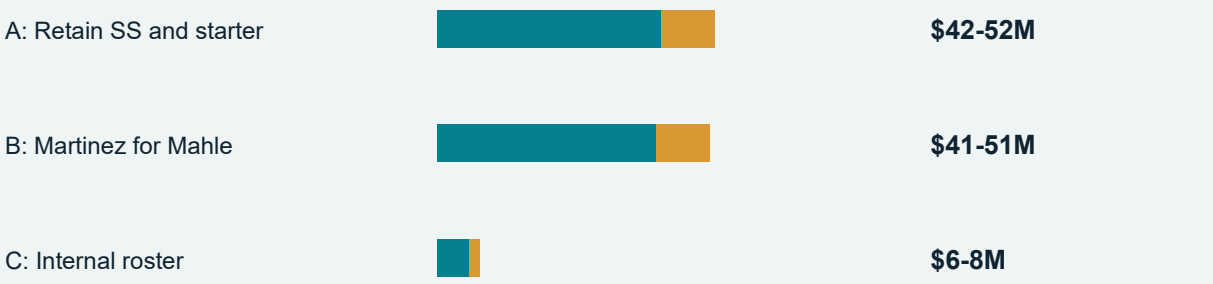
Plan B substitutes Martinez for Mahle. Its annual additions are $41-51 million and new commitments $78-94 million, with a total allocation of $253.45-267.45 million. The small financial difference should not dominate the decision. The meaningful choice is the form of innings, current medical evidence, contract terms and which pitcher remains obtainable at the stated ceiling.

Plan C makes none of those four acquisitions. It retains the $6-8 million reserve and assigns the larger internal jobs explicitly. The total allocation falls to $218.45-224.45 million. That savings comes with a much heavier burden on Jarvis, Bruján and the developing pitchers. A lower budget is not credited with the same expected roster quality as the preferred route.

Plan	Annual additions	Total allocation	New commitment
A: Dubón / Mahle / Clarke / Grichuk	$42-52M	$254.45-268.45M	$80-96M

Plan	Annual additions	Total allocation	New commitment
B: Martinez replaces Mahle	$41-51M	$253.45-267.45M	$78-94M
C: Internal roster	$6-8M	$218.45-224.45M	$6-8M

THREE ANNUAL SPENDING PLANS



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

Proposed ceilings and reserve. No signing, health or performance guarantee.

ANALYSIS / 18

Assign the plate appearances

The preferred allocation totals 6,200 plate appearances. Olson receives 650; Harris and Acuña 625 each; Albies, Riley and Dubón 600 each. Baldwin receives 550, Yastrzemski 450, Profar 400 and Murphy and Grichuk 300 apiece. The remaining 500 are divided among Jarvis, Wisely, Bruján, Hicklen and McCabe.

These assignments make the crowded corner and DH picture visible. Profar is not assumed to reclaim an everyday outfield job. Acuña gets designated-hitter access, Baldwin's bat stays available on selected days out of the catching gear, and Grichuk has a finite role. McCabe's 17 first-base starts provide Olson with actual coverage rather than an unfilled rest promise.

The plan's principal thirteen position players and thirteen pitchers cannot include every name in the seasonal table simultaneously. Bruján, McCabe and other depth players move through the roster only after selection, option and availability checks. With 35 players in the current 40-man snapshot, four acquisitions and a Profar return could consume the apparent room before those later selections. No unannounced release or injury-list move is assumed to clear a place.

Hitter	PA	Condition
Matt Olson	650	Health and performance gate
Michael Harris II	625	Health and performance gate
Ozzie Albies	600	Health and performance gate

Hitter	PA	Condition
Austin Riley	600	Health and performance gate
Ronald Acuña Jr.	625	Health and performance gate
Mauricio Dubón	600	New agreement required
Drake Baldwin	550	Health and performance gate
Sean Murphy	300	Health and performance gate
Mike Yastrzemski	450	Health and performance gate
Randal Grichuk	300	New agreement required
Jurickson Profar	400	Eligibility and roster return required; branch assigns all 400 PA if absent
Jim Jarvis	170	Health and performance gate
Brett Wisely	150	Health and performance gate
Vidal Bruján	70	Major-roster selection required
Brewer Hicklen	30	Health and performance gate
David McCabe	80	Major-roster selection required
TOTAL	6200	Season allocation, not simultaneous active roster

Pos.	162-start allocation	Condition
C	Baldwin 115; Murphy 47	Season allocation; readiness and roster selection required
1B	Olson 145; McCabe 17	Season allocation; readiness and roster selection required
2B	Albies 145; Wisely 12; Bruján 5	Season allocation; readiness and roster selection required
3B	Riley 140; Wisely 12; Jarvis 10	Season allocation; readiness and roster selection required
SS	Dubón 130; Jarvis 27; Bruján 5	Season allocation; readiness and roster selection required
LF	Yastrzemski 100; Profar 40; Grichuk 22	Season allocation; readiness and roster selection required
CF	Harris 145; Hicklen 12; Yastrzemski 5	Season allocation; readiness and roster selection required
RF	Acuña 110; Yastrzemski 20; Grichuk 32	Season allocation; readiness and roster selection required
DH	Profar 60; Acuña 30; Baldwin 25; Riley 10; Olson 10; Grichuk 20; Murphy 7	Season allocation; readiness and roster selection required
C: C	Baldwin 115; Murphy 47	Season allocation; readiness and roster selection required
C: 1B	Olson 145; McCabe 17	Season allocation; readiness and roster selection required

Pos.	162-start allocation	Condition
C: 2B	Albies 145; Wisely 12; Bruján 5	Season allocation; readiness and roster selection required
C: 3B	Riley 140; Wisely 12; Jarvis 10	Season allocation; readiness and roster selection required
C: SS	Jarvis 125; Bruján 37	Season allocation; readiness and roster selection required
C: LF	Yastrzemski 100; Profar 62	Season allocation; readiness and roster selection required
C: CF	Harris 145; Hicklen 12; Yastrzemski 5	Season allocation; readiness and roster selection required
C: RF	Acuña 110; Yastrzemski 42; Hicklen 10	Season allocation; readiness and roster selection required
C: DH	Profar 60; Acuña 30; Baldwin 25; Riley 10; Olson 10; Murphy 7; McCabe 20	Season allocation; readiness and roster selection required

ANALYSIS / 19

Assign all 162 starts and the relief behind them

The proposed starters account for 162 games and 885 innings. Sale has 27 starts, Holmes 28, Elder 27 and Mahle 28. López, Ritchie, Smith-Shawver and Fuentes supply the remaining 52. No scheduled start depends on Strider, Schwellenbach, Waldrep or Wentz becoming available.

The 555 relief innings complete a 1,440-inning planning model. Dodd and Mederos receive 65 apiece, Burkhalter 40 and Uberstine 25; their depth allocations absorb work that cannot be assigned to Parker. Fuentes appears in both groups but totals only 85 innings. Parker receives no main-plan innings following his July 29 elbow surgery. Owen Murphy is initially relief depth with an explicit alternate starting role. Moving him to the rotation removes innings from the bullpen rather than creating new innings out of nothing.

The total is an allocation tool, not a forecast of exact team innings. Road losses, extra innings, shortened games and pitcher usage change the real requirement. The purpose is to expose dependencies and make adjustments accountable. It prevents a roster from appearing deep merely because the same capable arm has been listed in two places.

Pitcher	GS / IP	Condition
Chris Sale	27 / 165	Health, workload and performance gate
Grant Holmes	28 / 155	Health, workload and performance gate
Bryce Elder	27 / 150	Health, workload and performance gate
Tyler Mahle	28 / 155	Proposed agreement and medical review
Reynaldo López	12 / 60	Health, workload and performance gate

Pitcher	GS / IP	Condition
JR Ritchie	20 / 100	Health, workload and performance gate
AJ Smith-Shawver	10 / 50	Health, workload and performance gate
Didier Fuentes	10 / 50	Health, workload and performance gate
TOTAL	162 / 885	No dependency on Strider, Schwellenbach, Waldrep or Wentz return

Pitcher	IP	Condition
Robert Suarez	50	Health, roster and performance gate
Dylan Lee	60	Health, roster and performance gate
Dylan Dodd	65	Health, roster and performance gate
Didier Fuentes	35	Combined starter/relief total 85 IP
Taylor Clarke	65	Proposed agreement
Ray Kerr	45	Health, roster and performance gate
Victor Mederos	65	Health, roster and performance gate
James Karinchak	35	Health, roster and performance gate
Michael Grove	20	Health, roster and performance gate
Rolddy Muñoz	25	Health, roster and performance gate
Blake Burkhalter	40	Health, roster and performance gate
Tyler Uberstine	25	Health, roster and performance gate
Owen Murphy	25	Health, roster and performance gate
TOTAL	555	885 starter innings plus relief = 1,440

ANALYSIS / 20

The fallback has to name the work

Without Dubón and Grichuk, Plan C removes 900 plate appearances. Jarvis gains 350, Wisely 150, Bruján 200, Hicklen 100 and McCabe 100. Shortstop becomes Jarvis for 125 starts and Bruján for 37. Profar, Yastrzemski and Hicklen take the vacated corner starts, while McCabe takes Grichuk's 20 DH starts. The result is a different roster, with weaker certainty at shortstop and more pressure on the depth bats.

Without Mahle, Ritchie adds eight starts and 45 innings, Smith-Shawver eight and 40, Owen Murphy eight and 45, and Fuentes four and 25. Owen Murphy's 25 relief innings move to Kerr, Muñoz and Uberstine in increments of ten, ten and five. Fuentes reaches 110 combined innings rather than being counted twice. Removing Clarke requires a second explicit 65-inning redistribution. Those two bullpen changes are both necessary to make the internal plan complete.

If Profar is unavailable, his 400 plate appearances go to McCabe, Yastrzemski, Grichuk and Hicklen in increments of 150, 100, 75 and 75. His 40 left-field starts become 20 for Yastrzemski and 20 for Hicklen. The

60 DH starts become 30 for McCabe, 15 for Grichuk and 15 for Murphy. Yastrzemski reaches 145 total starts under that branch, preserving a workable individual limit.

If López is unavailable, Ritchie, Smith-Shawver and Owen Murphy each supply four starts and 20 innings, with Owen Murphy's 25 relief innings reassigned as above. If Suarez cannot provide his 50 innings, six named relievers absorb the workload. These are isolated stress tests. Multiple simultaneous failures require a combined roster, workload and medical review, not the addition of every fallback without checking conflicts.

Change from A	Removed workload	Named replacement
B: Martinez for Mahle	28 GS / 155 IP	Martinez 30 / 165; Ritchie minus 2 / 10
C: no Dubón or Grichuk	900 PA	Jarvis +350, Wisely +150, Bruján +200, Hicklen +100, McCabe +100
C: no Mahle	28 GS / 155 IP	Ritchie +8 / 45, Smith-Shawver +8 / 40, Owen Murphy 8 / 45, Fuentes +4 / 25
C: starter conversions	Owen Murphy 25 relief IP	Kerr +10, Muñoz +10, Uberstine +5
C: no Clarke	65 relief IP	Kerr +10, Karinchak +10, Grove +10, Muñoz +10, Burkhalter +10, Uberstine +15
No Profar	400 PA; 40 LF / 60 DH starts	McCabe +150, Yastrzemski +100, Grichuk +75, Hicklen +75; named position reassignment below
No López	12 GS / 60 IP	Ritchie +4 / 20, Smith-Shawver +4 / 20, Owen Murphy 4 / 20; his 25 relief IP reassigned as above
No Suarez	50 relief IP	Clarke +10, Lee +5, Dodd +10, Kerr +10, Mederos +10, Karinchak +5
No Sean Murphy	300 PA; 47 C / 7 DH starts	Camargo 250 PA / 47 C after selection; McCabe +50 PA / 7 DH
Multiple failures	Combined recalculation required	Individual branches are not automatically additive. Reserves supply no unnamed production.

ANALYSIS / 21

How much prevention can Atlanta afford to lose?

The run-ratio exercise is a sensitivity test, not a player projection or betting estimate. At 742 runs scored and 626 allowed, the squared-ratio model produces 94.6 wins over 162 games. Holding the same plus-116 margin while increasing both scoring and runs allowed by 25 produces a slightly different result because run environment matters.

Adding 40 runs of offense while allowing 50 more drops the illustrative total to 92.7 wins. Scoring 20 fewer and allowing 60 more produces 85.1. Those scenarios show why modest offensive improvement cannot automatically compensate for a large loss of pitching performance.

The preferred plan therefore buys innings without presenting the purchases as a guaranteed win total. A healthy productive core and a strong pitching year can create a high ceiling. The practical offseason task is to reduce the chance that a few unavailable starters force the club into prolonged replacement-level coverage.

Illustrative change from 2026	RS / RA	Margin	162-game simple run-ratio wins
Unchanged runs	742 / 626	+116	94.6
Score 25 more; allow 25 more	767 / 651	+116	94.2
Score 40 more; same prevention	782 / 626	+156	98.7
Score 40 more; allow 50 more	782 / 676	+106	92.7
Score 20 fewer; allow 60 more	722 / 686	+36	85.1

ANALYSIS / 22

Decisions that should change the plan

Dubón's market price is the first decision point. If it moves beyond the stated ceiling, Atlanta should compare the actual cost of alternatives with the complete Jarvis/Bruján route. It should not promise a Seager trade, count Kim as his earlier peak or buy Crawford without acknowledging the range cost. The shortstop decision affects both defense and how much utility coverage remains elsewhere.

The next decision is the actual health and price of the available starters. A fresh medical report can change the order between Mahle and Martinez. It can also change whether López belongs in the initial rotation allocation. Useful returns by Strider or Schwellenbach would reduce pressure on other pitchers; they should trigger workload revisions, not an automatic expansion of the total.

Profar's status, Murphy's readiness and Suarez's elbow are separate decisions. The first changes a conditional hitting role, the second affects catching coverage and the third affects late-inning depth. None justifies treating all three as either healthy or unavailable. Recheck each on its own evidence and preserve the corresponding financial obligations.

ANALYSIS / 23

The verdict

Atlanta has enough established talent to pursue another strong season without a sweeping teardown. It also has enough unresolved pitching and availability questions that an unchanged roster would be a deliberate gamble. The best spending order is shortstop, dependable starts, a useful corner complement and affordable relief depth.

Dubón and Mahle are the preferred retentions because their jobs are concrete and the internal replacements are materially less certain. Clarke and Grichuk stay within narrow roles and price limits. Martinez provides a distinct starting-pitching alternative. The internal plan remains complete so the recommendation can be judged against what happens if negotiations fail.

The central judgment is straightforward: preserve the conditions that made 94 wins possible before asking the offense to cover for their disappearance. Atlanta's core can carry a contender. A careful offseason should make that core less dependent on perfect rehabilitation outcomes and another exceptional year from every arm around Sale.

[1] MLB: Braves regular-season team and player statistics

2024-26 completed seasons; club-specific player samples and full-league comparison files saved separately.

Open source

[2] MLB: completed Atlanta game log

162 regular-season finals; one-run and extra-inning records calculated from official games.

Open source

[3] MLB: dated 40-man roster

35 players at the November 3 snapshot. Administrative status is separate from readiness.

Open source

[4] MLB: Braves transactions

Official website and team/player API histories reconciled. Free-agent transactions override stale profile-team labels.

Open source

[5] MLB: full individual MLB seasons and splits

Separate saved player histories and handedness splits. Combined-team totals distinguished from Atlanta-only results.

Open source

[6] Baseball Savant: expected statistics

2024-26 full MLB batting and pitching samples. Descriptive expected statistics are not forecasts.

Open source

[7] Baseball Savant: Outs Above Average

Three-year fielding record and 2026 opportunity counts. OAA is measured in outs.

Open source

[8] Baseball Savant: framing

Full-season framing values; missing data is not zero.

Open source

[9] Baseball Savant: fielding run value

Catching values are distinguished from framing alone.

Open source

[10] FanGraphs RosterResource: Braves payroll

Salary/bonus allocation, option and tax columns checked November 3. S&S independently calculates its funded scenario.

Open source

[11] MLB: Braves injuries and roster moves

Dated public injury updates. Current roster activation is not medical clearance.

Open source

[12] MLB: Acuña and Albies options exercised

October 29 exercised options and pitcher roster reinstatements.

Open source

[13] MLB: Sale extension

February 24 agreement: $27M for 2027, separate 2028 club option.

Open source

[14] MLB Office of the Commissioner: Profar discipline

March announcement of 162-game unpaid suspension. Later eligibility and roster return require verification.

Open source

[15] MLB: Braves offseason decisions

October 22 dated context; source for further medical review, not evidence of later recovery.

Open source

[16] MLB: Gwinnett statistics

Separate hitting, pitching, fielding and roster responses saved.

Open source

[17] MLB: Columbus statistics

Double-A samples kept separate from Gwinnett and MLB.

Open source

[18] MLB Pipeline: Braves prospects

Ranks and ETAs are dated assessments, not guaranteed arrival dates.

Open source

[19] MLB: organization roster

Minor assignments and historical contributors reconciled against transactions.

Open source

[20] MLB Trade Rumors: projected arbitration salaries

Five retained arbitration estimates total $11.2M. Williams elected free agency October 15; his prospective $0.9M arbitration salary is excluded.

Open source

[21] MLBPA: free-agent register

Status also checked through individual MLB transactions.

Open source

[22] Stadium & Street: cross-club reviews

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

Open source

[23] MLB: Nationals medical history for Parker

Parker had July elbow surgery; no main-plan innings.

Open source

[24] MLB: Kinley January contract

Dated $3M salary and $1.25M option buyout terms; later release does not establish a settlement or offset.

Open source

[25] MLB: Williams free-agent election

October 15 free-agent election; no projected 2027 arbitration salary retained.

Open source

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