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THE 2027 ROSTER PROJECT / SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS

Make the Giants' recovery measurable

Buy pitching. Preserve the young lineup.

65	-91	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: fund pitching without blocking the young lineup

The Giants lost 97 games while their expensive veteran core and a promising younger lineup failed to become one durable team. The offseason should begin with two rotation purchases, a more reliable late-inning reliever and modest catching support. It should also preserve real playing time for Bryce Eldridge, Drew Gilbert, Casey Schmitt and the outfield auditions. Buying another first baseman or designated hitter would spend money on jobs already occupied by the club's most convincing bats.

The preferred plan adds Nick Martinez, Casey Mize, Andrew Kittredge and Austin Hedges. Including a $6-8 million reserve, that means $40-49 million of annual additions and a total roster allocation of $224.04-237.04 million. Those are S&S negotiating ceilings and planning assumptions, not an announced Giants budget or a report of offers. The distinction matters because the existing commitments already account for $184.04-188.04 million before new purchases.

The premium alternative keeps the two starting pitchers and Hedges but replaces Kittredge with David Bednar and reduces two internal relief assignments. Its annual additions are $51-60 million and its total is $235.04-248.04 million. The internal-only case costs $190.04-196.04 million, including the same reserve. It is cheaper because it leaves substantially more of the pitching burden with inexperienced players, not because the missing production has been recovered elsewhere.

This is a recovery plan with measurable checkpoints. The strongest argument against the premium alternative is that a 65-win club may remain too far from contention to justify a three-year closer commitment and qualifying-offer penalties. That objection deserves more weight than a generic call to spend. The recommendation funds the rotation and a shorter relief commitment. The premium closer is conditional on a stronger competitive timetable and an acceptable total acquisition cost.

ANALYSIS / 02

The size of the hole

San Francisco finished 65-97 with 669 runs scored and 760 allowed. The offense ranked 26th in runs and the pitching staff 23rd in ERA. Compared with 2025, the Giants scored 36 fewer runs and conceded 76 more. Their run margin fell by 112, from plus-21 to minus-91. Both sides of the roster require improvement. [1]

Season	Record	Runs for / against	Margin	OPS / ERA
2024	80-82	693 / 699	-6	.701 / 4.10
2025	81-81	705 / 684	+21	.697 / 3.82
2026	65-97	669 / 760	-91	.706 / 4.33

36 FEWER RUNS, 76 MORE ALLOWED

2025 margin: +21 / 2026 margin: -91



The run margin declined by 112 from the prior season.

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

The prior two seasons provide useful context. An 81-81 team with a positive run margin in 2025 was close enough to benefit from incremental improvement. The 2026 club moved well away from that position. Restoring health could recover some lost work, but the team also traded productive contributors and received below-standard performance from players who remained.

The difference between the actual 65 wins and the roughly 70.7 wins in the simple run-ratio illustration is not a bankable five-win rebound. That illustration ignores sequencing, bullpen deployment, schedule and the distribution of scoring. It is a way to measure the scale of the scoring deficit. The Giants need to create a better run environment before using a model's residual as an offseason asset.

The most useful objective is therefore specific: restore credible starting innings, reduce damaging relief walks and improve the lowest-value defensive assignments while giving the emerging hitters enough opportunity to establish themselves. The club should judge those changes by their effects on runs and player development, not by the number of familiar names it signs.

ANALYSIS / 03

A roster that changed on November 2

The initial roster feed still contained 49 names. Individual November 2 transactions remove nine from the major-roster list, leaving 40 after the documented reinstatements. This reconciliation is necessary before discussing depth. An old roster row cannot make a departed player available to fill next year's innings or bench. [2,3]

Current major-roster player / MLB ID	Bats / throws	Administrative status
Adrian Houser / 605288	R / R	Nov. 2 reinstated; medical clearance separate
Anthony Molina / 683627	R / R	On reconciled 40-man; role not guaranteed
Blade Tidwell / 694918	R / R	Nov. 2 reinstated; medical clearance separate
Bo Davidson / 815589	L / R	On reconciled 40-man; role not guaranteed
Bryce Eldridge / 805811	L / R	On reconciled 40-man; role not guaranteed
Camilo Doval / 666808	R / R	On reconciled 40-man; role not guaranteed
Carson Seymour / 693313	R / R	On reconciled 40-man; role not guaranteed
Carson Whisenhunt / 687931	L / L	Nov. 2 reinstated; medical clearance separate
Casey Schmitt / 669477	R / R	Nov. 2 reinstated; medical clearance separate
Cesar Perdomo / 702885	L / L	On reconciled 40-man; role not guaranteed
Christian Koss / 683766	R / R	On reconciled 40-man; role not guaranteed
Daniel Susac / 691740	R / R	Nov. 2 reinstated; medical clearance separate
Drew Cavanaugh / 701852	L / R	On reconciled 40-man; role not guaranteed
Drew Gilbert / 687551	L / L	On reconciled 40-man; role not guaranteed
Dylan Smith / 681916	R / R	On reconciled 40-man; role not guaranteed
Harrison Bader / 664056	R / R	Nov. 2 reinstated; medical clearance separate
Hayden Birdsong / 806185	R / R	Nov. 2 reinstated; medical clearance separate
Jesus Rodriguez / 683679	R / R	Nov. 2 reinstated; medical clearance separate
Joel Peguero / 666711	R / R	Nov. 2 reinstated; medical clearance separate
Jonah Cox / 813841	R / R	On reconciled 40-man; role not guaranteed
Jung Hoo Lee / 808982	L / R	On reconciled 40-man; role not guaranteed
Keaton Winn / 676775	R / R	Nov. 2 reinstated; medical clearance separate
Landen Roupp / 694738	R / R	On reconciled 40-man; role not guaranteed
Logan Webb / 657277	R / R	On reconciled 40-man; role not guaranteed
Marcelo Mayer / 691785	L / R	On reconciled 40-man; role not guaranteed

Current major-roster player / MLB ID	Bats / throws	Administrative status
Matt Chapman / 656305	R / R	Nov. 2 reinstated; medical clearance separate
Matt Wilkinson / 683363	R / L	On reconciled 40-man; role not guaranteed
Miguel Mendez / 700280	R / R	On reconciled 40-man; role not guaranteed
Rafael Devers / 646240	L / R	Nov. 2 reinstated; medical clearance separate
Randy Rodríguez / 678495	R / R	Nov. 2 reinstated; medical clearance separate
Rowan Wick / 592858	L / R	Nov. 2 reinstated; medical clearance separate
Ryan Walker / 676254	R / R	On reconciled 40-man; role not guaranteed
Sam Hentges / 656529	L / L	On reconciled 40-man; role not guaranteed
Scott Bandura / 814154	L / R	On reconciled 40-man; role not guaranteed
Trent Harris / 805345	R / R	On reconciled 40-man; role not guaranteed
Trevor McDonald / 686790	R / R	Nov. 2 reinstated; medical clearance separate
Turner Hill / 806367	L / L	On reconciled 40-man; role not guaranteed
Victor Bericoto / 682674	R / R	On reconciled 40-man; role not guaranteed
Willy Adames / 642715	R / R	On reconciled 40-man; role not guaranteed
Yunior Marte / 805074	R / R	On reconciled 40-man; role not guaranteed

José Buttó is now with Texas, Duncan Davitt with Cincinnati, Brett Harris and Shay Whitcomb with Philadelphia, and Zach Morgan with Baltimore. Joel Kuhnel and Seth Lonsway were outrighted. Tristan Beck's individual transaction records a release, and Reiver Sanmartin was designated for assignment. Those are different statuses, with different implications for control and availability. [3]

Rowan Wick's option was declined, but the specific November 2 report says arbitration control remains. The broader free-agent tracker conflicts and needs refreshing. [9]

The roster table is administrative. It does not certify medical readiness or reserve an Opening Day job. Reinstated players can still require rehabilitation or a restricted workload. The acquisition candidates also remain outside the retained roster until a real agreement and current affiliation are verified.

ANALYSIS / 04

Devers and Eldridge are the offensive foundation

Rafael Devers hit 37 home runs and produced an .865 OPS in 633 plate appearances. Eldridge added 17 home runs and an .825 OPS in 448. They give the Giants two credible middle-order bats around which to organize first base and designated hitter. The sensible purchase is support for them, not another player who needs their positions to justify his salary. [1]

Player / MLB ID	SF PA	AVG / OBP / SLG	HR	BB / K; role
Rafael Devers / 646240	633	.258 / .340 / .525	37	69 / 161; 1B/DH core
Jung Hoo Lee / 808982	579	.276 / .320 / .404	10	29 / 57; RF
Willy Adames / 642715	505	.230 / .289 / .424	21	37 / 139; SS; performance review
Bryce Eldridge / 805811	448	.269 / .364 / .461	17	59 / 119; 1B/DH development
Casey Schmitt / 669477	409	.271 / .301 / .483	21	11 / 81; 2B/3B
Drew Gilbert / 687551	393	.238 / .330 / .394	11	39 / 71; CF/LF
Matt Chapman / 656305	352	.235 / .324 / .368	7	37 / 81; 3B; recovery
Christian Koss / 683766	221	.217 / .257 / .305	4	9 / 59; Utility
Jonah Cox / 813841	169	.252 / .298 / .384	4	10 / 65; CF/2B audition
Drew Cavanaugh / 701852	166	.229 / .315 / .292	1	18 / 50; Catching development
Daniel Susac / 691740	161	.243 / .289 / .375	3	8 / 36; Catching recovery
Turner Hill / 806367	124	.219 / .306 / .314	1	13 / 21; Contact-oriented depth
Victor Bericoto / 682674	116	.241 / .267 / .420	5	4 / 32; Corner depth
Harrison Bader / 664056	111	.170 / .198 / .358	5	4 / 34; Contracted; conditional role
Jesus Rodriguez / 683679	58	.235 / .316 / .412	2	5 / 8; C/utility recovery
Marcelo Mayer / 691785	17	.067 / .176 / .067	0	2 / 7; Middle-infield audition
Scott Bandura / 814154	30	.207 / .233 / .241	0	1 / 17; Corner audition
Bo Davidson / 815589	22	.350 / .364 / .350	0	1 / 7; LF opportunity

Eldridge's .364 on-base percentage is particularly important for a club that cannot afford to reduce its offense to isolated home runs. He walked 59 times against 119 strikeouts. Those figures do not make him a finished hitter, but they support a substantial increase in responsibility. His proposed 620 plate appearances are a development commitment, conditional on health and performance.

Devers' .367 actual wOBA exceeded his .342 expected wOBA. Eldridge's .361 and .359 were much closer. That difference does not mean Devers' home runs should be taken away. It means the plan should not

automatically project every part of his 2026 production forward, while Eldridge's underlying contact gives the Giants a firmer reason to invest playing time. [4]

The two can divide first base and DH without filling every day with the same arrangement. The position map gives Eldridge more first-base starts and uses DH to protect Devers and provide rest for other regulars. The club still needs actual defensive work and health checks before settling the split. A salary or a prospect ranking cannot resolve that assignment by itself.

ANALYSIS / 05

Schmitt's breakthrough and Gilbert's opportunity

Schmitt hit 21 home runs in 409 plate appearances, with a .784 OPS. His expected wOBA of .355 exceeded his actual .336. The contact evidence supports giving him an important role, rather than treating the season as a lucky short burst. The caution is his approach: 11 walks leave little on-base protection when fewer balls fall or clear the fence. [1,4]

Batter	wOBA	xwOBA	SLG / xSLG	Reading
Rafael Devers	0.367	0.342	0.525 / 0.473	Power remains central; actual exceeds expected
Bryce Eldridge	0.361	0.359	0.461 / 0.467	Strong initial contact evidence
Casey Schmitt	0.336	0.355	0.483 / 0.512	Contact supports the breakthrough
Drew Gilbert	0.320	0.334	0.394 / 0.400	Useful on-base and contact foundation
Jung Hoo Lee	0.317	0.315	0.404 / 0.382	Modest production, limited power
Willy Adames	0.311	0.296	0.424 / 0.391	Expected offense also below prior peak
Matt Chapman	0.309	0.286	0.368 / 0.319	Weak contact season; health alone is not a projection
Harrison Bader	0.238	0.272	0.358 / 0.367	Short, poor season; no automatic rebound
Jonah Cox	0.300	0.256	0.384 / 0.319	Small sample; role must be earned
Drew Cavanaugh	0.280	0.298	0.292 / 0.337	Small catching sample
Daniel Susac	0.290	0.296	0.375 / 0.369	Recovery and sample uncertainty
Bo Davidson	0.315	0.266	0.350 / 0.324	Only 22 PA; no meaningful established forecast
Austin Hedges	0.313	0.280	0.377 / 0.314	Defensive purchase; actual offense exceeds contact
James McCann	0.332	0.303	0.455 / 0.431	Alternative catcher, short sample

Gilbert supplied a .330 on-base percentage, 39 walks and 71 strikeouts over 393 plate appearances. He also contributed positive range value. That combination merits regular work in center and left, with the exact mix determined by the health and effectiveness of the rest of the outfield. A veteran signing should have to beat that complete case, not merely offer a longer major-league résumé.

Schmitt's proposed primary second-base job is a real transition in workload. He played only 51 innings there for San Francisco in 2026 while moving around the diamond. The plan does not pretend he has already completed a full season at the position. Spring work, double-play execution and range must support the assignment, with Marcelo Mayer and Christian Koss available if it does not.

The Giants also need to avoid turning versatility into permanent uncertainty. Moving a player among five positions can solve one day's injury problem while obscuring what he is being developed to do. Schmitt should enter camp with a principal job and a limited set of secondary responsibilities. Gilbert should know that center-field work is an opportunity to win, not a temporary courtesy until another name arrives.

ANALYSIS / 06

The veteran contracts require decisions, not assumptions

Willy Adames' OPS declined from .793 in 2024 to .739 in 2025 and .713 in 2026. Matt Chapman's sequence was .791, .770 and .692. Jung Hoo Lee remained closer to his recent level, at .724 after .734, but his role carries less power than the other large contracts. Their salaries are fixed inputs to the budget. Their production is not fixed output. [1,5]

Hitter	2024 MLB PA / OPS	2025 MLB PA / OPS	2026 MLB PA / OPS
Rafael Devers	601 / .870	729 / .851	633 / .865
Willy Adames	688 / .793	686 / .739	505 / .713
Matt Chapman	647 / .791	535 / .770	352 / .692
Jung Hoo Lee	158 / .641	617 / .734	579 / .724
Bryce Eldridge	No MLB season	37 / .476	448 / .825
Casey Schmitt	113 / .760	348 / .706	409 / .784
Drew Gilbert	No MLB season	109 / .598	393 / .724
Harrison Bader	437 / .657	501 / .796	111 / .556
Marcelo Mayer	No MLB season	136 / .674	245 / .570
Austin Hedges	146 / .423	180 / .527	247 / .702

Adames' expected wOBA of .296 and minus-17 Outs Above Average create a two-sided problem. The Giants should begin with a chance for him to recover, but should also establish a credible shortstop alternative. Mayer played 179 innings at shortstop for Boston in 2026, and Koss logged 346.2 there for San Francisco. Those are actual defensive alternatives, though neither has earned an assumption of strong everyday offense. [4,6]

Chapman's recent surgery requires a fresh recovery assessment. His 2026 defensive value remained positive in a reduced sample, but the bat's expected measures were weak. The club should protect rest and provide coverage rather than projecting a full healthy season at his previous offensive peak. Schmitt's presence makes that coverage more plausible, provided second base is covered in turn. [4,13]

Lee's low strikeout total helps the lineup put balls in play. His 29 walks and 10 home runs in 579 plate appearances leave less room for defensive losses in right field. Keeping him in a familiar corner is reasonable;

treating contact alone as a complete offensive solution is not. The Giants need either more extra-base damage or enough improvement elsewhere to carry a modest corner bat.

ANALYSIS / 07

Handedness should guide matchups without freezing development

Devers posted a 1.027 OPS against right-handed pitching and .573 against left-handers. Eldridge's smaller left-handed-pitching sample went the other way: .878 versus .799 against right-handers. The Giants should use those observations to shape difficult matchups, not to deny a young hitter opportunities based on a presumed platoon limitation he did not show. [5]

Batter / full MLB season	LHP: PA / OPS	RHP: PA / OPS
Rafael Devers	220 / .573	413 / 1.027
Jung Hoo Lee	178 / .612	401 / .774
Willy Adames	137 / .653	368 / .735
Bryce Eldridge	143 / .878	305 / .799
Casey Schmitt	106 / .820	303 / .771
Drew Gilbert	50 / .210	343 / .801
Matt Chapman	95 / .768	257 / .664
Christian Koss	68 / .612	153 / .539
Jonah Cox	91 / .707	78 / .654
Drew Cavanaugh	19 / .528	147 / .616
Daniel Susac	50 / .912	111 / .547
Turner Hill	43 / .449	81 / .714
Victor Bericoto	67 / .723	49 / .636
Harrison Bader	24 / .837	87 / .482
Austin Hedges	130 / .747	117 / .654
James McCann	59 / .561	107 / .878

Gilbert's .210 OPS against left-handers came in only 50 plate appearances. His .801 against right-handers came in 343. That is a reason to provide a right-handed complement and evaluate his development, not enough evidence to declare his career role settled. Bader and Jonah Cox can help with that coverage if they earn it.

Susac's .912 OPS against left-handers and .547 against right-handers also came from small samples. Catching assignments should primarily reflect readiness, receiving and the staff's needs. The offensive split can guide a close decision, but it should not override a recovery restriction or the need for a catcher to work consistently with the pitchers.

The lineup has enough complementary pieces to avoid a large purchase merely to address one split. The tradeoff is manager attention and actual role discipline. Planned rest, pinch-hit options and defensive replacements must fit on the active roster. This report's season totals cover callups and substitutions across the year, not an oversized bench available every night.

ANALYSIS / 08

Defense: shortstop is the first review

Adames moved from plus-five OAA in 2025 to minus-17 in 2026. That is the largest defensive concern among the established regulars. One year's range metric is not a complete evaluation, but a loss that large cannot be dismissed when the offense also declined. The club needs video and positioning review alongside a real competition for some shortstop work. [4]

Fielder	2024 OAA	2025 OAA	2026 OAA	2026 opportunities
Willy Adames	0	+5	-17	421
Matt Chapman	+11	+5	+4	287
Rafael Devers	-7	-1	-2	291
Bryce Eldridge	No row	0	0	118
Casey Schmitt	-3	-4	+2	235
Jung Hoo Lee	-1	-5	-6	298
Drew Gilbert	No row	+2	+4	265
Jonah Cox	No row	No row	+2	125
Harrison Bader	+9	+7	0	71
Christian Koss	No row	-1	+2	224
Marcelo Mayer	No row	+3	0	205
Turner Hill	No row	No row	+1	71
Victor Bericoto	No row	No row	-3	65
Scott Bandura	No row	No row	-1	14
Bo Davidson	No row	No row	-1	18

Chapman remained positive at plus-four, Schmitt at plus-two, Gilbert at plus-four and Cox at plus-two. The opportunity totals matter. Cox's 125 chances and Bader's 71 do not provide the same confidence as a full season. Nor should all-player OAA be mistaken for proof that a versatile player is equally strong at each position.

Player	2026 SF defensive innings	2027 assignment
Rafael Devers	1B 874.2	1B/DH
Bryce Eldridge	1B 338.2	1B/DH
Willy Adames	SS 1046.1	SS with review
Matt Chapman	3B 718.2	3B after clearance
Casey Schmitt	SS 35.0; LF 231.2; 1B 115.2; 3B 200.0; 2B 51.0	2B/3B
Jung Hoo Lee	CF 99.0; RF 1044.1	RF
Drew Gilbert	RF 55.0; CF 731.2; LF 74.2	CF/LF
Jonah Cox	LF 3.0; CF 260.2; 2B 95.0	CF/LF and 2B depth
Harrison Bader	CF 239.2	Conditional CF
Christian Koss	2B 30.0; 3B 157.1; SS 346.2	Utility IF
Marcelo Mayer	2B 8.0; 3B 13.0	SS/2B audition
Turner Hill	CF 16.0; LF 222.0	OF depth
Victor Bericoto	LF 143.0; RF 55.0; 1B 9.0	Corner OF
Scott Bandura	LF 40.0; RF 24.0	LF depth
Bo Davidson	RF 45.0	LF audition

Davidson's proposed left-field opportunity is supported by 181 Triple-A innings there, although his brief MLB defensive sample was in right. Cox has very little recorded left-field experience, so his proposed corner work requires preparation rather than being treated as already established. The club could keep more of his work in center and second while shifting Gilbert or Bandura to left if the transition is not smooth. [6,15]

The practical defensive goal is to reduce the weakest everyday exposure while preserving the hitters with the best chance to grow. That requires linked decisions. Moving Schmitt to third affects second base. Moving Mayer to short affects the bench. The position map later in the report makes those dependencies visible before a new acquisition claims a job that is already needed elsewhere.

ANALYSIS / 09

Catching support should be modest and specific

Susac's patella fracture interrupted his season. His return requires a new assessment before the Giants assign a regular catching workload. [12]

Catcher	2026 catching IP	Framing runs	Overall catching value
Daniel Susac	351.0	+5.6	No qualified row
Drew Cavanaugh	373.2	-3.6	No qualified row
Jesus Rodriguez	95.0	-0.6	No qualified row
Austin Hedges	601.2	+2.0	-1.6 runs
James McCann	367.2	-5.4	No qualified row

The receiving evidence gives him a reason to remain central: plus-5.6 framing runs in 351 catching innings. Cavanaugh was minus-3.6 in 373.2 innings, while Jesus Rodriguez was minus-0.6 in 95. Those samples do not settle every part of catching defense. They do identify a reason to protect the staff with a veteran option while the younger catchers develop. [4,6]

Hedges is the preferred limited purchase at one year and $4-5 million. The plan assigns him 180 plate appearances and 42 catching starts, not a starting catcher's offensive burden. His plus-two framing runs are useful, but his overall catching value was minus-1.6 runs in the available table. Calling him an across-the-board defensive solution would overstate the evidence.

James McCann is a cheaper alternative at $3-4 million. His .766 OPS in 166 plate appearances looks stronger than Hedges' .702 in 247, but his minus-5.4 framing runs work against the particular job being purchased. The Giants should decide which weakness they are addressing. If Susac is healthy enough for a larger role, doing nothing outside the organization is a coherent choice, with a clearly less experienced receiving group.

ANALYSIS / 10

Starting pitching needs two purchases

The starters produced 834.1 innings with a 4.48 ERA. Logan Webb and Landen Roupp remain the principal anchors, but the club cannot fill the remaining schedule by carrying forward every name from the 2026 pitching table. Ray and Mahle were traded. Several younger pitchers have recovery restrictions. [1,3,7]

Pitcher / MLB ID	GS / SF IP	ERA / full MLB xERA	K / BB / HR	Treatment
Logan Webb / 657277	27 / 160.2	4.31 / 4.09	134 / 41 / 13	Lead starter; rebound not guaranteed
Landen Roupp / 694738	29 / 155.0	4.01 / 3.84	143 / 75 / 11	Retain; improve walk rate
Adrian Houser / 605288	16 / 109.2	4.02 / 4.95	75 / 34 / 15	Flexor recovery; limited workload
Robbie Ray / 592662	21 / 122.2	3.08 / 4.82	107 / 57 / 15	Traded; now free agent
Tyler Mahle / 641816	18 / 94.2	5.13 / 3.95	89 / 37 / 14	Traded; now free agent
Trevor McDonald / 686790	14 / 70.1	5.12 / 4.09	57 / 23 / 7	No 2027 innings budgeted
Blade Tidwell / 694918	9 / 56.2	4.45 / 4.27	46 / 21 / 8	No 2027 innings budgeted
Carson Whisenhunt / 687931	8 / 34.2	6.49 / 5.99	26 / 21 / 5	No 2027 innings budgeted
Matt Wilkinson / 683363	6 / 27.2	3.58 / 3.08	20 / 5 / 5	Young starter audition
Anthony Molina / 683627	5 / 29.0	3.72 / 3.70	29 / 6 / 2	Starter/bulk depth
Cesar Perdomo / 702885	4 / 24.2	3.65 / 4.48	14 / 7 / 4	Starter/bulk depth
Yunior Marte / 805074	3 / 24.1	4.44 / 5.69	15 / 10 / 5	Young starter audition

Webb's 160.2 innings were well below his 204.2 in 2024 and 207 in 2025. His ERA rose to 4.31, with a 4.09 xERA. The plan uses 185 innings, a partial restoration of volume rather than an automatic return to his prior peak. His previous durability makes that a defensible planning case, but the actual workload still depends on his condition and spring progression. [1,4,5]

Roupp reached 155 innings with a 4.01 ERA and 3.84 xERA. His 75 walks are the main caution. He is a valuable retained starter, but expecting him to absorb a much larger workload while also solving the rotation's control problem would overburden one player. The plan holds him near that volume at 165 innings.

Houser's 4.02 ERA in 109.2 innings was accompanied by a 4.95 xERA. His recovery and contact profile justify a smaller assignment than a full-season workhorse role. The proposed 110 innings provide a useful third returning piece, with a named replacement branch if unavailable. That leaves enough uncertainty to justify two outside starters rather than one.

ANALYSIS / 11

Keep recovery out of the guaranteed innings column

Birdsong, McDonald, Tidwell and Whisenhunt receive no projected 2027 innings while recovering from elbow surgery. [10]

Their absence from the budget is conservative roster construction, not a prediction that none can pitch during the season. If one returns and proves ready, the Giants can reduce another assignment. Starting with unverified recovery innings would make the plan depend on the favorable outcome before it happens.

The same principle applies to the relief group. Randy Rodriguez, Winn, Wick and Peguero have conditional allocations with explicit replacements. Houser's starting assignment has its own alternative. Administrative reinstatement allows the organization to carry players through the winter; it does not establish that their proposed workload is medically appropriate.

Devers, Chapman, Schmitt, Bader, Susac and Jesus Rodriguez also need current readiness checks before their full assignments become Opening Day plans. The club should distinguish a completed rehabilitation milestone from a general expectation of a spring return. No private diagnosis, exact return date or guaranteed recovery is assumed in the numbers here.

ANALYSIS / 12

The bullpen needs command and a stable hierarchy

The relievers allowed 278 walks in 595.2 innings, a 4.20 walks-per-nine rate. They recorded 27 blown saves in 57 opportunities. Those failures occurred in different game situations and cannot all be assigned to a single closer, but the overall picture is clear: too many innings began or continued with avoidable traffic. [7]

Pitcher	2026 SF IP	ERA / full MLB xERA	K / BB	Treatment
Dylan Smith	39.2	3.86 / 3.95	45 / 22	Young middle relief
Sam Hentges	36.2	3.19 / 3.81	41 / 25	Left-handed core; workload gate
Keaton Winn	43.0	3.35 / 4.01	33 / 17	Recovery-dependent relief
Ryan Walker	32.2	7.16 / 4.45	23 / 19	Earn role after 7.16 MLB ERA
Carson Seymour	31.2	4.55 / 6.23	23 / 16	Bulk relief
Trent Harris	23.1	2.31 / 2.41	27 / 7	Measured leverage audition
Joel Peguero	11.1	2.38 / 2.70	5 / 4	Recovery-dependent depth
Camilo Doval	2.0	0.00 / 3.76	4 / 1	Only two SF IP; full MLB season matters

Pitcher	2026 SF IP	ERA / full MLB xERA	K / BB	Treatment
JT Brubaker	60.1	3.58 / 5.02	39 / 26	Free agent; no retained work
Erik Miller	32.2	2.76 / 3.15	45 / 22	Traded to Boston
Caleb Kilian	44.1	4.26 / 3.57	53 / 20	Traded to Philadelphia

Camilo Doval's two scoreless Giants innings are not the right sample for projecting him. His full season across three clubs was 60.2 innings with a 4.15 ERA and 3.76 xERA. The plan retains his projected arbitration cost and assigns 60 innings, while adding another experienced reliever. Bednar would provide a stronger first choice for the ninth in the premium alternative. [1,4,5]

Trent Harris combined 40.1 Triple-A innings with 23.1 in the majors. Dylan Smith supplied 39.2 MLB innings. Their development matters more than adding a veteran to every bullpen chair. The plan gives both meaningful roles but does not make either responsible for replacing all of the missing high-leverage performance at once.

Hentges' 36.2 MLB innings followed no MLB season in 2025. His proposed 55 innings therefore need a workload review even though his 3.19 ERA was encouraging. Seymour offers bulk coverage from a longer combined AAA/MLB season. Walker's 2.52 Triple-A ERA is a reason to keep evaluating him, not to erase his 7.16 major-league result.

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The farm can help without being spent prematurely

The nearest useful promotions are not necessarily the highest-ranked teenagers. Whitman's 84.1 Triple-A innings at a 3.74 ERA, following 50.1 in Double-A, make him relevant to the immediate rotation discussion. Davidson's 234 Triple-A plate appearances and .923 OPS support a real outfield audition. Those are different cases from a prospect who has only reached A-ball. [15]

Player / MLB ID	2026 level and sample	Readiness decision
Bo Davidson / 815589	AAA: 234 PA, .923 OPS, 10 HR; 25 BB / 44 K	LF opportunity; 22 MLB PA cannot settle it
Scott Bandura / 814154	AAA: 430 PA, .890 OPS, 10 HR; 48 BB / 61 K	Depth, with more AAA than MLB evidence
Turner Hill / 806367	AAA: 365 PA, .949 OPS, 9 HR; 37 BB / 31 K	Contact alternative; limited MLB power
Marcelo Mayer / 691785	AAA: 19 PA, 1.009 OPS, 1 HR; 2 BB / 9 K	Check readiness after interrupted season
Diego Velasquez / 694196	AAA: 142 PA, .781 OPS, 0 HR; 17 BB / 28 K	Middle-infield depth; no assumed starting job
Parks Harber / 692238	AAA: 250 PA, .739 OPS, 6 HR; 29 BB / 59 K	Corner depth behind occupied positions
Joe Whitman / 802126	AAA: 84.1 IP, 3.74 ERA; 69 K / 23 BB	Near-term rotation candidate; 134.2 combined AA/AAA IP
Yunior Marte / 805074	AA: 64.1 IP, 3.92 ERA; 72 K / 22 BB	64.1 AA IP plus A+ and MLB work
Cesar Perdomo / 702885	AA: 72.1 IP, 3.98 ERA; 89 K / 22 BB	Longer season supports depth, not an established starter

Player / MLB ID	2026 level and sample	Readiness decision
Miguel Mendez / 700280	AA: 10.2 IP, 8.44 ERA; 15 K / 5 BB	Development before guaranteed MLB workload
Josuar Gonzalez / 829034	A: 153 PA, 1.010 OPS, 3 HR; 21 BB / 30 K	A-ball; no 2027 MLB PA
Jhonny Level / 815929	A+: 331 PA, .836 OPS, 8 HR; 26 BB / 60 K	A+ development; no immediate replacement claim
Gavin Kilen / 702264	AA: 143 PA, .812 OPS, 2 HR; 11 BB / 22 K	AA development; keep middle-infield runway
Dakota Jordan / 702607	A+: 355 PA, .879 OPS, 18 HR; 28 BB / 98 K	Power with strikeout risk; no immediate LF guarantee
Henry Lalane / 700649	A+: 21.2 IP, 4.57 ERA; 16 K / 8 BB	Development asset; not veteran innings
Ramon Marquez / 827408	A+: 10.0 IP, 5.40 ERA; 12 K / 1 BB	Ten A+ IP is not MLB readiness
Luis De La Torre / 815219	A+: 100.2 IP, 5.81 ERA; 126 K / 82 BB	82 walks; control must improve
Jackson Flora / 814176	A: 1.0 IP, 0.00 ERA; 2 K / 1 BB	New draftee; no 2027 MLB innings assumed

Josuar Gonzalez, Luis Hernández, Jhonny Level, Gavin Kilen and Dakota Jordan are part of the longer development picture. The plan assigns no major-league production to the youngest players merely because the current roster needs it. Gonzalez's strong Single-A sample is promising; it does not make him a ready replacement for Adames. [2,15]

Jackson Flora, Ramon Marquez, Henry Lalane and Luis De La Torre should also remain development assets rather than accounting devices. De La Torre struck out 126 at High-A but walked 82. That is a specific improvement requirement. Marquez's 10 innings for Eugene and Flora's first professional samples are far too small to support major-league workload claims.

Tony Neubeck, acquired for Furman, belongs in the organizational register at San Jose. His inclusion preserves the actual trade and current affiliation without inventing near-term value. Parks Harber and Diego Velasquez offer different forms of upper-minors depth, but their jobs are also blocked by existing major-league commitments until an opening is earned or created. [2,3,15]

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What the pitching candidates actually offer

Martinez is the preferred control-oriented addition at two years and $26-30 million. He walked 26 in 180 innings, with a 3.10 ERA and 3.98 xERA. The gap between those run-prevention measures argues against paying as if the ERA is guaranteed to repeat. The low walk total and substantial workload still address two immediate Giants weaknesses. [1,4]

Candidate / MLB ID	Full 2026 MLB evidence	S&S ceiling / decision
Nick Martinez / 607259	180.0 IP, 3.10 ERA, 3.98 xERA; 109 K / 26 BB	Preferred SP: 2 years / $26-30M

Candidate / MLB ID	Full 2026 MLB evidence	S&S ceiling / decision
Casey Mize / 663554	131.1 IP, 4.32 ERA, 3.87 xERA; 110 K / 38 BB	Preferred SP: 2 years / $24-28M
David Bednar / 670280	69.1 IP, 2.47 ERA, 2.88 xERA; 76 K / 20 BB	Premium alternative: 3 years / $48-54M; QO attached
Andrew Kittredge / 552640	48.1 IP, 3.54 ERA, 4.01 xERA; 40 K / 11 BB	Preferred relief addition: 1 year / $5-7M
Austin Hedges / 595978	247 PA, .702 OPS, 6 HR; 0.313/0.280 wOBA/xwOBA	Defense-first C: 1 year / $4-5M
James McCann / 543510	166 PA, .766 OPS, 7 HR; 0.332/0.303 wOBA/xwOBA	Catching alternative: 1 year / $3-4M
Steven Okert / 595345	67.2 IP, 2.13 ERA, 3.13 xERA; 68 K / 14 BB	Left-handed alternative: 1 year / $8-10M
Taylor Clarke / 664199	73.0 IP, 2.96 ERA, 4.42 xERA; 45 K / 14 BB	Middle-relief fallback: 1 year / $4-6M
Chris Bassitt / 605135	102.0 IP, 4.41 ERA, 4.92 xERA; 74 K / 38 BB	Pass as preferred SP; 102 IP, age-38 season
Zac Gallen / 668678	105.1 IP, 6.07 ERA, 6.64 xERA; 64 K / 35 BB	Reclamation inquiry only, not funded
David Peterson / 656849	148.1 IP, 4.79 ERA, 4.76 xERA; 137 K / 65 BB	Alternative tested; command limits fit
Brady Singer / 663903	157.0 IP, 5.85 ERA, 5.99 xERA; 126 K / 62 BB	Alternative tested; run prevention too weak
Dustin May / 669160	145.2 IP, 4.70 ERA, 4.45 xERA; 144 K / 50 BB	Alternative tested; durability not enough alone

Mize is the second preferred starter at two years and $24-28 million. His full-season 4.32 ERA and 3.87 xERA are more useful than judging him only by a difficult late stint in San Diego. The plan assigns 130 innings, close to his 131.1 in 2026, with an ankle-clearance condition before any commitment. His role is a credible middle-rotation purchase, not an ace acquired at a discount.

The alternatives were tested. Bassitt supplied only 102 innings with a 4.92 xERA before an age-38 season. Gallen's 6.07 ERA and 6.64 xERA make him a reclamation inquiry, not the solution to a staff that already needs dependable work. Peterson's 65 walks in 148.1 innings and Singer's 5.85 ERA do not fit the preferred command and run-prevention objectives. May's 145.2 innings are useful, but a 4.70 ERA and 4.45 xERA offer less assurance than the chosen pair.

Bednar's 69.1 innings, 2.47 ERA, 2.88 xERA and 76 strikeouts support the premium relief case. The ceiling is three years and $48-54 million. Kittredge, at one year and $5-7 million, is a materially cheaper alternative with only 45 projected innings. The difference in cost reflects the role and evidence, not a claim that either pitcher has accepted the price. Bednar has a $23.15 million Yankees qualifying offer, with a November 17 decision deadline. [24]

The Giants would need to assess compensation penalties if he rejects it and signs elsewhere. Current rules tie the forfeiture to the signing club's classification. The source currently lists last offseason's classifications, so the exact 2026-27 Giants penalty is not assumed here. Draft and international-pool costs are additional

acquisition costs, not salary hidden inside the reserve. That uncertainty and the longer commitment favor Plan A. [25]

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Repeated targets, different jobs and explicit alternatives

Martinez also appears in earlier published and prepared club cases because control and innings are common needs. Milwaukee's prepared alternative used him to rebalance a roster after a possible Bauers departure. Tampa Bay's case treated him as a retention. Cincinnati's and San Diego's cases addressed their own rotation vacancies. For the Giants he supplies 30 starts and 165 innings that would otherwise fall to a group of inexperienced starters. The price range stays consistent because no club-specific market quote has been verified. [22]

Mize is a retention candidate in the Padres preparation and an external acquisition here. The same player cannot be treated as independently obtainable in both preferred rosters. If San Diego retains him, the Giants must switch to a separately priced alternative or the internal branch. The report does not add wins or innings from an unsigned allowance after the name disappears.

Okert and Clarke remain evaluated alternatives, not automatic members of another shopping list. Okert's left-handed relief would displace a different mix of internal innings than the premium closer assignment. Clarke's 2.96 ERA was accompanied by a 4.42 xERA, making his cheaper price attractive for middle relief but not equivalent to the premium role. Their earlier $8-10 million and $4-6 million ceilings remain comparable because the evidence and intended jobs remain comparable.

Hedges differs from the Kelly or Stephenson purchases proposed elsewhere. The Giants are buying 180 plate appearances and limited receiving support while retaining Susac and Cavanaugh. They are not buying a full starting catcher. McCann is the alternate, and no acquisition is a documented third choice. That distinction in workload is the reason for a smaller ceiling, not novelty for the sake of a different name.

All principal acquisitions here are free-agent proposals with no outgoing player package. The premium Bednar branch carries qualifying-offer compensation exposure; no pick value or signing-pool forfeiture is priced as zero. The alternative internal rotation is fully allocated. A trade for a young starter could be useful, but this report does not manufacture an available pitcher or quote a prospect cost without evidence. The farm remains intact in the funded plans, and any future trade must identify the exact outgoing players and the jobs they would otherwise fill.

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The existing financial commitments

Seven guaranteed allocations total about $159.143 million. The bridge then subtracts a $2 million Boston bonus credit, adds a $500,000 retained Hicks payment, includes $14.3 million of arbitration estimates and carries a $100,000 Wick buyout. A $12-16 million allowance covers pre-arbitration players, minors and callups. The resulting base is $184.04-188.04 million. [17,18,21]

Player / MLB ID	2027 allocation	Basis
Rafael Devers / 646240	$33.000M	Before $2M Boston bonus credit
Willy Adames / 642715	$31.143M	Salary plus allocated bonus
Matt Chapman / 656305	$25.167M	Salary plus allocated bonus
Jung Hoo Lee / 808982	$22.833M	Salary plus allocated bonus; later opt-out separate
Logan Webb / 657277	$23.000M	Guaranteed salary
Adrian Houser / 605288	$11.000M	Guaranteed 2027; 2028 option separate
Harrison Bader / 664056	$13.000M	Hold full allocation; no assumed suspension savings
TOTAL	$159.143M	Before credits, retained salary, arbitration and depth

Player	Estimate, $M	Treatment
Camilo Doval	6.60	Published arbitration estimate; unsigned
Casey Schmitt	2.50	Published arbitration estimate; unsigned
Sam Hentges	2.00	Published arbitration estimate; unsigned
Ryan Walker	1.60	Published arbitration estimate; unsigned
Randy Rodriguez	0.80	Published arbitration estimate; unsigned
Rowan Wick	0.80	Unsigned estimate; option declined, control retained
TOTAL	14.30	Six cases; no automatic non-tender savings

Component	Annual allocation	Definition
Seven contracts	$159.143M	Includes full $13M Bader amount
Boston bonus credit	-$2.00M	Do not also subtract future Devers deferrals
Retained Hicks payment	$0.50M	Cost without a Giants roster role
Arbitration	$14.30M	Six unsigned estimates
Wick option buyout	$0.10M	Separate from projected arbitration salary
Pre-arb, minors and callups	$12-16M	S&S planning allowance
Existing-roster envelope	$184.04-188.04M	Allocation, not cash or official CBT

This is a salary-plus-allocated-bonus planning basis. It is not the Giants' annual cash flow, competitive-balance-tax payroll or total cost of operating the baseball club. Devers' future deferrals must not be subtracted again from an allocation already built on the stated salary basis. The retained Hicks payment is a cost without a Giants workload, and the Boston credit is not an extra player available for free.

Bader's full $13 million remains in the base. His 2026 pay suspension does not establish a 2027 saving. [20]

The six arbitration figures are estimates rather than agreements. Cutting a projected salary would also remove or change the corresponding player's role. In particular, a Doval non-tender cannot be treated as pure savings while leaving his 60 relief innings in the same plan. The cash decision and the baseball decision must travel together.

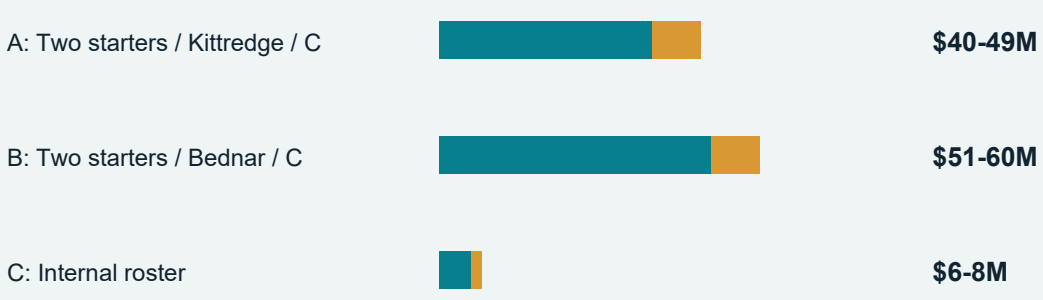
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Three complete spending paths

Plan A's annual additions are Martinez at $13-15 million, Mize at $12-14 million, Kittredge at $5-7 million, Hedges at $4-5 million and a $6-8 million reserve. The total is $40-49 million. The two multi-year starter contracts plus the one-year reliever, catcher and reserve create $65-78 million of new commitment. Those two totals answer different questions and should not be interchanged.

Plan	Annual additions	Total allocation	New commitment
A: Martinez / Mize / Kittredge / Hedges	$40-49M	$224.04-237.04M	$65-78M
B: Martinez / Mize / Bednar / Hedges	$51-60M	$235.04-248.04M	$108-125M
C: Internal roster	$6-8M	$190.04-196.04M	$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.

Plan B substitutes Bednar at $16-18 million for Kittredge. The $11 million annual increase comes with a different bullpen: Bednar receives 65 innings, while Harris and Smith receive 10 fewer each. Its total new

commitment is $108-125 million, before any non-salary qualifying-offer penalties. This branch requires both availability and a deliberate decision to accept that acquisition cost.

Plan C purchases no named major-league player and carries only the $6-8 million reserve. That allowance can fund actual needs once identified, but it earns no production in the model by itself. Its full workload map exposes the cost of doing less: 295 starter innings move to less established pitchers, 45 relief innings stay internal, and the catchers receive more work without veteran receiving support.

Condition	Cost treatment	Workload consequence
Bader status unresolved	Keep $13M; no saving booked	250 conditional PA have named replacements
Wick option declined	Carry $0.1M buyout plus $0.8M arbitration estimate	No guaranteed opening-day relief
Doval non-tender considered	Do not book $6.6M saving before decision	60 relief IP would require replacement
Hedges unavailable	McCann at $3-4M saves $1M relative to ceiling	Same 180 PA; different defense
Bednar premium branch	Plan B adds $11M annually; QO penalties separate	Only after rejection, availability and acquisition cost verified
Both SP purchases fail	Plan C uses $6-8M reserve only	295 purchased SP IP redistributed to inexperienced arms
Houser 2028 option	No extra 2027 charge added	Future $12.5M option / $4M buyout remains separate
Other organizational costs	Not included in these envelopes	Benefits, CBT, operations and capital costs differ

The preferred plan should be rejected if ownership cannot support its full allocation or if the medical and market checks fail. The correct response is to select and describe a different roster. Quietly dropping a cost while retaining the player's innings would make the cheaper proposal fictitious.

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Allocate the plate appearances before buying another bat

The proposed 6,200 plate appearances give Devers and Eldridge substantial everyday work, preserve Lee's role, and create defined opportunities for Schmitt, Gilbert, Mayer, Cox and Davidson. They also account for rest and the possibility that recovering players cannot immediately resume their largest prior workload. These are season assignments, not a prediction of exact totals. [23]

Player	PA	Opportunity
Devers	650	1B/DH after recovery
Eldridge	620	1B/DH development

Player	PA	Opportunity
Lee	600	RF
Adames	550	SS; role reviewed
Chapman	500	3B after recovery
Schmitt	500	2B/3B
Gilbert	500	CF/LF
Cox	350	OF/2B audition
Bader	250	Conditional CF
Susac	300	C after recovery
Cavanaugh	220	C development
Hedges	180	Only if signed
Mayer	350	SS/2B audition
Koss	150	Utility IF
Davidson	250	LF audition
Bandura	100	Corner depth
Bericoto	80	Corner depth
Jesus Rodriguez	50	Recovery-dependent C/utility
TOTAL	6,200	Season coverage, not 18 simultaneous active hitters

Change	PA adjustment	Consequence
C: no Hedges	-180; Cavanaugh +100, Jesus Rodriguez +80	Less established catching defense
Bader unavailable	-250; Cox +100, Gilbert +50, Davidson +50, Bandura +50	No assumed salary saving
Susac unavailable	-300; Cavanaugh +180, Jesus Rodriguez +120	Cavanaugh 90 C starts, Hedges 52, Rodriguez 20
Devers unavailable	-650; Eldridge +60, Schmitt +100, Mayer +100, Koss +50, Davidson +100, Bandura +100, Bericoto +80, Hill +60	Substantial offensive loss; no equal-production assumption
Chapman unavailable	-500; Schmitt +100, Mayer +150, Koss +100, Davidson +100, Hill +50	Schmitt moves to 3B; more infield coverage required
TOTAL	6,200 in each individual branch	Simultaneous injuries require a new integrated map

No outside first baseman, second baseman or designated hitter is funded. That choice leaves offensive risk in the young group, but it also prevents the Giants from paying twice for the same position while the pitching staff remains short. A later batting purchase should identify the incumbent displaced, the defensive position and the precise source of its playing time.

The injury branches show how much pressure a major absence creates. Replacing Devers' 650 plate appearances numerically does not replace his power. Replacing Chapman's 500 moves Schmitt to third and exposes more middle-infield work. Each branch closes independently; multiple simultaneous absences require a new integrated plan rather than stacking the same reserve player's opportunities twice.

ANALYSIS / 19

Close the starting-innings gap honestly

The preferred staff covers 162 starts and 870 starter innings. Webb and Roupp carry the largest retained assignments. Martinez and Mize provide 295 purchased innings. Houser receives a limited recovery-dependent role, while Whitman, Wilkinson, Molina, Yunior Marte and Perdomo cover the remaining starts. [23]

Pitcher	Starts / IP	Workload condition
Webb	31 / 185	Increase from 160.2 IP; prior history supports capacity, not health guarantee
Roupp	29 / 165	Near 155 prior IP; reduce walks
Houser	22 / 110	Flexor recovery; no full 180-IP assumption
Martinez	30 / 165	Only if signed; below 180 prior IP
Mize	26 / 130	Only if signed and ankle cleared; near 131.1 prior IP
Whitman	10 / 45	45 SP plus 10 RP; development and roster-selection gate
Wilkinson	6 / 25	25 SP; AAA performance must improve
Molina	4 / 20	20 SP plus 15 RP
Yunior Marte	2 / 10	10 SP plus 10 RP; no instant full rotation job
Perdomo	2 / 15	15 SP plus 15 RP; depth audition
TOTAL	162 / 870	No Birdsong, McDonald, Tidwell or Whisenhunt innings

The internal-only alternative reallocates the 56 starts and 295 innings assigned to Martinez and Mize. Houser adds four starts and 20 innings; Wilkinson 18 and 90; Molina 12 and 60; Marte 10 and 55; Perdomo eight and 45; Whitman four and 25. That closes the schedule on paper. It also makes a much larger bet on unproven performance and Houser's health.

Whitman's longer upper-minors season gives him a plausible route into that coverage. Wilkinson's 5.15 Triple-A ERA and the limited major-league histories of the other options argue for caution. The plan is not allowed to promote their workloads and their performance simultaneously without evidence. That is the practical value of comparing a funded roster with the no-purchase case.

If one of the excluded recovering pitchers returns, his innings should replace a listed assignment after actual readiness is established. They should not be added on top of 1,440 innings as an unexplained bonus. The same rule applies to a trade, a waiver claim or a prospect who develops faster than expected.

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Relief innings and defensive starts

The bullpen receives 570 innings, separate from the 870 starter innings. Kittredge, Doval and Hentges form the initial experienced group, with Harris and Smith receiving substantial developmental work. The recovery-dependent pitchers have smaller assignments and named substitutes. [23]

Pitcher	IP	Condition
Kittredge	45	Only if signed; below 48.1 prior IP
Doval	60	Full MLB evidence, not two SF IP
Hentges	55	Health and workload clearance
Randy Rodriguez	45	Conditional recovery allocation, not opening promise
Trent Harris	70	Small rise from 63.2 AAA/MLB IP; monitor
Dylan Smith	65	Workload review after 39.2 MLB IP plus minors
Winn	40	Recovery-dependent
Walker	40	Earn role; 35.2 AAA IP separate from MLB
Seymour	60	Bulk role, 107.2 AAA/MLB IP
Wick	20	Later recovery only; explicit replacement
Peguero	20	Recovery-dependent depth
Molina	15	Plus 20 SP
Perdomo	15	Plus 15 SP
Whitman	10	Plus 45 SP
Yunior Marte	10	Plus 10 SP
TOTAL	570	870 starter + 570 relief = 1,440 IP

Change from A	IP / starts adjustment	Consequence
B: Bednar for Kittredge	Kittredge -45, Harris -10, Smith -10; Bednar +65	Same 570 relief IP; premium leverage purchase with QO cost
C: no Martinez or Mize	-56 starts / -295 IP	Houser +4/20; Wilkinson +18/90; Molina +12/60; Marte +10/55; Perdomo +8/45; Whitman +4/25
C: no Kittredge	-45 RP IP	Walker +10, Seymour +15, Molina +10, Perdomo +10
C readiness warning	Large reliance on unproven starters	Arithmetic closes; quality and medical gates remain unresolved

Change from A	IP / starts adjustment	Consequence
Randy unavailable	-45 RP IP	Harris +10, Smith +10, Seymour +15, Walker +10
Wick and Peguero unavailable	-40 RP IP	Seymour +15, Molina +10, Perdomo +10, Whitman +5
Houser unavailable	-22 starts / -110 IP	Wilkinson +8/40, Whitman +6/30, Molina +4/20, Marte +4/20
TOTAL	162 starts; 870 + 570 IP	One changed branch at a time; combined failures require rebuilding

The high-leverage plan is stronger if Randy Rodriguez returns effectively, but his 45 innings are not an opening-day promise. The replacement branch gives Harris, Smith, Seymour and Walker more work. If Wick and Peguero are unavailable as well, the club must revisit the combined map and its risk, not assume the same four pitchers can absorb every contingency indefinitely.

Pos.	162-start allocation	Purpose
C	Susac 75; Cavanaugh 45; Hedges 42	C: Cavanaugh 75, Susac 75, Rodriguez 12
1B	Eldridge 100; Devers 62	Keep both power bats in regular work
2B	Schmitt 105; Mayer 42; Koss 15	Cox additional depth, not double-counted
3B	Chapman 125; Schmitt 25; Koss 12	Recovery gate; retain rest
SS	Adames 120; Mayer 30; Koss 12	Review defense; no automatic salary-driven monopoly
LF	Davidson 65; Gilbert 40; Cox 35; Bandura 22	Give prospects a defined audition
CF	Gilbert 90; Bader 50; Cox 22	No Bader: Gilbert +25, Cox +25
RF	Lee 140; Bericoto 22	Established corner assignment
DH	Devers 80; Eldridge 40; Adames 15; Chapman 15; Schmitt 12	Recovery and rest; no outside DH purchase

Each defensive position receives 162 starts. That forces the lineup discussion to account for second base, shortstop, center field and the DH rotation together. The plan gives Adames a substantial initial role while reserving real alternatives. It gives Davidson an opportunity in left without implying that his 22 MLB plate appearances have already established him as an everyday hitter.

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How much improvement would change the outlook

Adding 30 runs and preventing 30 would still leave the Giants at minus-31 in run margin. Adding 50 and preventing 50 would move the margin to plus-nine. In the simple squared-run-ratio illustration, that latter case produces about 82 wins. The size of the required improvement is the main point. A few successful signings do not by themselves prove a return to contention. [23]

Illustrative change from 2026	RS / RA	Margin	Simple run-ratio wins
Unchanged runs	669 / 760	-91	70.7
Score 30 more; prevent 30	699 / 730	-31	77.5
Score 50 more; prevent 50	719 / 710	+9	82.0
Score 70 more; prevent 70	739 / 690	+49	86.5
Score 20 fewer; allow 40 more	649 / 800	-151	64.3

The more optimistic illustration, 70 additional runs scored and 70 fewer allowed, reaches a plus-49 margin and about 86.5 wins. It requires broad improvement across health, development, defense and pitching. None of those run changes is a player forecast or a claim that the preferred purchases generate that exact value.

The strongest countercase to the premium Bednar branch is visible here. If the Giants believe the lineup is still a year away, the recommended shorter bullpen commitment preserves money and avoids the longest new relief commitment. The countercase to doing almost nothing is equally clear: the internal rotation must absorb a large, specific volume gap while young hitters are trying to establish themselves in competitive games.

The recommended compromise is to prioritize the two rotation purchases, protect the young lineup's opportunities, and decide the premium bullpen purchase against an explicit competitive timetable. That is a more disciplined use of the budget than treating every need as equally urgent or every familiar free agent as equally suitable.

ANALYSIS / 22

Departures and decisions ahead

The historical record includes players who no longer belong to the Giants. Ramos, Arraez, Bailey, Miller and Kilian contributed in 2026, but their production is not retained in this roster. Ray and Mahle are outside candidates after later free agency, not returning Giants under contract. November waiver and outright decisions also remain distinct from trades and unrestricted free agency. [3]

Player / MLB ID	Classification	2027 treatment
Heliot Ramos / 671218	External Or Historical	No retained major-league workload; historical contribution separate
Luis Arraez / 650333	Free Agent	No retained major-league workload; historical contribution separate
Patrick Bailey / 672275	External Or Historical	No retained major-league workload; historical contribution separate
Erik Miller / 669062	External Or Historical	No retained major-league workload; historical contribution separate
Caleb Kilian / 668873	External Or Historical	No retained major-league workload; historical contribution separate
Robbie Ray / 592662	Free Agent	No retained major-league workload; historical contribution separate
Tyler Mahle / 641816	Free Agent	No retained major-league workload; historical contribution separate
JT Brubaker / 664141	Free Agent	No retained major-league workload; historical contribution separate
Nate Furman / 801501	External Or Historical	No retained major-league workload; historical contribution separate
Grant McCray / 687529	External Or Historical	No retained major-league workload; historical contribution separate
Braxton Roxby / 694820	External Or Historical	No retained major-league workload; historical contribution separate
José Buttó / 676130	External Current Major Roster	No retained major-league workload; historical contribution separate

Player / MLB ID	Classification	2027 treatment
Duncan Davitt / 701474	External Current Major Roster	No retained major-league workload; historical contribution separate
Brett Harris / 695391	External Current Major Roster	No retained major-league workload; historical contribution separate
Shay Whitcomb / 694376	External Current Major Roster	No retained major-league workload; historical contribution separate
Zach Morgan / 681439	External Current Major Roster	No retained major-league workload; historical contribution separate
Joel Kuhnel / 669270	Current Organizational Minor	No retained major-league workload; historical contribution separate
Seth Lonsway / 675920	Current Organizational Minor	No retained major-league workload; historical contribution separate
Tristan Beck / 663941	Released	No retained major-league workload; historical contribution separate
Reiver Sanmartin / 665665	Designated For Assignment	No retained major-league workload; historical contribution separate
Andrew Knizner / 668800	Free Agent	No retained major-league workload; historical contribution separate

The November roster decisions should resolve the remaining control and salary questions before the Giants commit their winter budget. Wick's status, the arbitration cases and Bader's contractual situation affect both cost and roster space. The club also needs current medical assessments before converting the conditional workloads into a spring plan.

The next decisions are concrete: determine who can actually start in April, resolve the catching workload, establish a second-base and shortstop plan, and set ownership's full annual allocation. Those decisions can change the preferred names. They should not erase the evidence or the price and workload limits that made the original recommendations testable.

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Verdict and sources

The Giants have enough useful young hitters to justify a patient offensive plan. They do not have enough dependable pitching to make patience a complete roster strategy. Buy credible starts first. Give the bullpen a more stable hierarchy if the competitive timetable supports the cost. Keep the recovering players' workloads conditional, and make the expensive veterans earn their largest defensive assignments.

The preferred plan costs $224.04-237.04 million in annual roster allocations. The premium Bednar version costs $235.04-248.04 million, plus any applicable qualifying-offer penalties. The internal-only path costs $190.04-196.04 million and leaves more risk in identifiable jobs. The choice should be made with those consequences visible, not with a single optimistic payroll figure or a list of unsigned names.

Statistics are completed regular-season totals unless a different scope is stated. Baseball innings use thirds: 0.1 means one out and 0.2 means two. Expected statistics describe tracked contact, not guaranteed future results. OAA is a range measure and should not be added directly to framing or other fielding values as if every component were independent. All price ceilings, workload allocations and run-sensitivity cases are S&S analysis.

[1] MLB completed team and player statistics

2024-26 regular seasons. Club-specific and full MLB samples remain distinct.

Open source

[2] MLB roster and player identities

November 3 snapshot reconciled against later individual transactions.

Open source

[3] MLB individual and team transactions

Individual queries resolve November 2 departures omitted from the initial team feed.

Open source

[4] Baseball Savant: expected statistics and defense

2024-26 expected batting/pitching, OAA, framing and fielding value. Missing qualified rows stay missing.

Open source

[5] MLB player histories and handedness splits

Individual histories and split queries support each named comparison.

Open source

[6] MLB fielding by position

Giants defensive innings, individual full-season histories and minor-league positions.

Open source

[7] MLB starter and reliever splits

Starter and relief workload, walks, ERA and save opportunities.

Open source

[8] MLB Giants injury updates

Dated recovery checks. Administrative reinstatement does not clear a proposed workload.

Open source

[9] MLB: November 2 roster decisions

Specific Wick control statement conflicts with the broad free-agent tracker; release-date reconciliation required.

Open source

[10] MLB: Giants roster review

Four young starters recovering from elbow surgery receive no projected innings.

Open source

[11] MLB: Birdsong surgery decision

March 19 dated report; no exact future return assumed.

Open source

[12] MLB: Susac injury

Patella fracture and dated catching interruption.

Open source

[13] MLB: Chapman and Schmitt recovery context

August reporting, superseded where later transactions or recovery reports are available.

Open source

[14] MLB: Devers season ends

September dated context. Workload remains conditional.

Open source

[15] MLB affiliate statistics and rosters

Sacramento, Richmond, Eugene and San Jose samples with exact player IDs and levels.

Open source

[16] MLB free-agent register

Candidate status and qualifying-offer marks, reconciled with specific dated announcements.

Open source

[17] FanGraphs RosterResource Giants payroll

Salary-plus-allocated-bonus basis, credits, retained payments and option treatment. Not annual cash or CBT.

Open source

[18] MLB Trade Rumors arbitration projections via Yardbarker

Six retained estimates total $14.3M after roster and option reconciliation.

Open source

[19] MLB: Wick contract

Original contract and recovery context; later option decision governs.

Open source

[20] MLB: Bader pay suspension

2026 status does not establish a 2027 salary saving.

Open source

[21] MLB option register

Wick buyout and contract context; specific later announcement governs control.

Open source

[22] Stadium & Street MLB team-analysis series

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

Open source

[23] S&S planning calculations

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

Open source

[24] MLB: Bednar qualifying offer

November 2 offer; premium acquisition branch remains conditional.

Open source

[25] MLB qualifying-offer rules

Forfeiture depends on signing-club classification. Displayed classifications are for the prior offseason; current exact penalty remains unverified.

Open source

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