STADIUM & STREET

THE 2027 ROSTER PROJECT / WASHINGTON NATIONALS

Washington needs innings behind its young offense

Buy dependable starts. Develop the young lineup.

77	+6	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

Washington scored 821 runs in 2026 and still finished below .500. Its bullpen worked 730 2/3 innings, more than the rotation's 706 1/3. An offense capable of keeping games close repeatedly asked the relief staff to cover most of the afternoon. The most useful winter purchase is dependable starting work, followed by a reliever who limits walks. Another prominent bat would address a less urgent problem while consuming opportunities the club needs to evaluate its young hitters. [1,5]

The preferred plan offers Nick Martinez two years and $26-30 million, Michael Soroka one year and $8-10 million, and Steven Okert two years and $16-20 million. A separate $6-8 million reserve brings annual additions to $35-43 million. These are S&S negotiating ceilings. Martinez would take 30 starts and 165 innings, Soroka 24 starts and 125 innings, and Okert 60 relief innings. Each agreement requires current medical, market and qualifying-offer review. No club offer is being reported.

The alternative brings back Foster Griffin at two years and $28-32 million instead of Martinez. The internal plan buys none of the three pitchers and reallocates their work to named players. That plan is less expensive, but it concentrates much more responsibility in a staff that already struggled to cover innings. Its arithmetic can be made complete. Its performance is substantially less secure.

Washington should preserve the developmental value of this lineup. Give Harry Ford a meaningful catching share. Keep Jacob Young in center field. Move CJ Abrams toward second base, using Nasim Nuñez and Seaver King at shortstop. Let Brady House, Dylan Crews and Yohandy Morales earn sustained opportunities with defined alternatives. The team can seek improvement without signing a veteran to stand in front of every young player.

ANALYSIS / 02

What improved, and what did not

The Nationals improved from 66 wins to 77. They scored 134 more runs and allowed 84 fewer, moving their run differential from minus-212 to plus-six. The offense made the larger numerical contribution, but both sides improved. This was a considerably more competitive team than the 2025 version. It was also still allowing five runs per game. [1]

Season	Record	Runs for / against	Margin	OPS / ERA
2024	71-91	660 / 764	-104	.684 / 4.30
2025	66-96	687 / 899	-212	.693 / 5.35
2026	77-85	821 / 815	+6	.744 / 4.67

A 218-RUN IMPROVEMENT

2025 margin: -212 / 2026 margin: +6



The run margin improved by 218; the win total rose by 11.

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

Washington went 18-22 in one-run games and 9-5 in extra innings. The first record offers some scope for ordinary variation, while the second cautions against treating all close-game outcomes as unfavorable. The run ratio implied by 821 scored and 815 allowed is approximately 82 wins under a simple squared-runs formula. That is context for 77 actual wins, not a forecast or a claim that the club deserved an exact alternative record. [2]

Several important contributors have departed. Luis García Jr. and Curtis Mead supplied productive Washington plate appearances before trades. Griffin's strong Washington pitching ended with a move to Cleveland. Their work remains part of the 2026 record, but it cannot be carried into a retained 2027 roster. The challenge is to sustain the offense while replacing pitching and reorganizing the infield.

ANALYSIS / 03

The roster must reflect the transactions

The November 3 official website and dated roster feed both list 41 players. That agreement does not establish legal capacity on a 40-man roster. It is an unresolved administrative snapshot. The plan assumes no vacant place and requires reconciliation before any signing or selection. It does not invent a release to force the count to fit. The full named register appears later in this report. [3,4,19]

Recent changes matter. Braxton Roxby arrived through waivers. Nate Furman arrived in a trade with San Francisco. Mitchell Parker was claimed by Atlanta and Paxton Schultz by Cincinnati. José Tena was designated for assignment, with the outcome still pending at this research date. PJ Poulin, Ken Waldichuk and Richard Lovelady elected free agency. Max Kranick's earlier free-agent transaction also removes him from the retained salary and workload plan.

Player / MLB ID	Latest relevant transaction	2027 treatment
Luis García Jr. / 671277	2026-08-03: New York Yankees activated 1B Luis García Jr..	No retained main-plan workload
Curtis Mead / 678554	2026-09-30: Boston Red Sox activated 3B Curtis Mead.	No retained main-plan workload
Foster Griffin / 656492	2026-10-29: LHP Foster Griffin elected free agency.	Alternative purchase only
Zack Littell / 641793	2026-08-26: Arizona Diamondbacks released RHP Zack Littell.	No retained main-plan workload
Miles Mikolas / 571945	2026-08-14: Washington Nationals released RHP Miles Mikolas.	No retained main-plan workload
Trevor Williams / 592866	2026-10-29: RHP Trevor Williams elected free agency.	No retained main-plan workload
Mitchell Parker / 680730	2026-11-02: Atlanta Braves claimed LHP Mitchell Parker off waivers from Washington Nationals.	No retained main-plan workload
Paxton Schultz / 687606	2026-11-02: Cincinnati Reds claimed RHP Paxton Schultz off waivers from Washington Nationals.	No retained main-plan workload
PJ Poulin / 676571	2026-11-02: LHP PJ Poulin elected free agency.	No retained main-plan workload
Ken Waldichuk / 686610	2026-11-02: LHP Ken Waldichuk elected free agency.	No retained main-plan workload
Richard Lovelady / 663992	2026-11-02: LHP Richard Lovelady elected free agency.	No retained main-plan workload
José Tena / 677588	2026-11-02: Washington Nationals designated DH José Tena for assignment.	DFA; no outcome inferred
Max Kranick / 668820	2026-10-07: RHP Max Kranick elected free agency.	No retained main-plan workload

An old player-profile team label is weaker evidence than a later transaction. The register uses dated team rosters, individual histories and official announcements together. Free agency is also different from an agreement to return. Griffin can be considered as an external purchase; his earlier Washington affiliation does not lower the price automatically or guarantee interest.

ANALYSIS / 04

The offense starts with Wood

James Wood finished with a .891 OPS, 30 home runs and 102 walks in 623 plate appearances. His .403 expected weighted on-base average exceeded his .383 actual mark. The underlying contact evidence supports treating him as the central offensive player, while 179 strikeouts remain part of the cost of his production. This plan assigns him 650 plate appearances, 105 starts in left field and 40 at designated hitter. [5,6]

Player / MLB ID	WSH PA	AVG / OBP / SLG	HR	BB / K
James Wood / 695578	623	.265 / .388 / .503	30	102 / 179
CJ Abrams / 682928	654	.261 / .336 / .497	33	57 / 158
Daylen Lile / 695734	655	.246 / .296 / .429	22	40 / 127
Dylan Crews / 686611	443	.223 / .289 / .374	13	30 / 107
Jacob Young / 696285	471	.252 / .318 / .390	10	33 / 78
Brady House / 691781	355	.247 / .313 / .397	10	29 / 91
Andrés Chaparro / 665953	228	.263 / .360 / .525	13	25 / 53
Keibert Ruiz / 660688	354	.280 / .316 / .443	10	16 / 37
Harry Ford / 695670	118	.190 / .314 / .350	3	17 / 28
Nasim Nuñez / 683083	493	.209 / .291 / .244	1	49 / 99
Jorbit Vivas / 678391	364	.238 / .331 / .322	3	41 / 53
Abimelec Ortiz / 694673	136	.188 / .228 / .344	5	7 / 36
Luis García Jr. / 671277	374	.283 / .313 / .560	23	16 / 61
Curtis Mead / 678554	327	.254 / .352 / .500	17	39 / 62

Abrams supplied 33 home runs and an .833 OPS. His contribution is essential, but his .333 xwOBA was below his .358 wOBA. Washington should budget for a good offensive middle infielder without automatically repeating every part of that line. Daylen Lile's 22 home runs and .725 OPS provided useful volume, and his expected results were modestly stronger. The three left-handed hitters give the lineup a substantial foundation.

Hitter	2024 MLB PA / OPS	2025 MLB PA / OPS	2026 MLB PA / OPS
James Wood	336 / .781	689 / .825	623 / .891
CJ Abrams	602 / .747	635 / .748	654 / .833

Hitter	2024 MLB PA / OPS	2025 MLB PA / OPS	2026 MLB PA / OPS
Daylen Lile	No MLB season	351 / .845	655 / .725
Dylan Crews	132 / .641	322 / .632	443 / .663
Jacob Young	521 / .647	364 / .583	471 / .708
Brady House	No MLB season	274 / .574	355 / .710
Andrés Chaparro	132 / .693	73 / .505	228 / .885
Keibert Ruiz	485 / .619	267 / .595	354 / .759
Harry Ford	No MLB season	8 / .417	118 / .664
Nasim Nuñez	78 / .632	92 / .699	493 / .535
Jorbit Vivas	No MLB season	66 / .516	364 / .653
Abimelec Ortiz	No MLB season	No MLB season	136 / .572
Luis García Jr.	528 / .762	526 / .701	543 / .830
Curtis Mead	132 / .569	264 / .620	329 / .851

The comparison across seasons separates a real body of work from a brief surge. It also prevents a common rebuilding mistake: assigning a young player a permanent label after one rough stretch. Crews and House need enough plate appearances to show whether their contact and approach are improving. They should not receive unlimited playing time, but a short leash can leave the organization with less information and no better replacement.

ANALYSIS / 05

Contact quality changes the batting order debate

Andrés Chaparro's .885 OPS and 13 home runs in 228 Washington plate appearances make him a useful first-base candidate. His .344 xwOBA, below his .383 actual wOBA, argues for a smaller production assumption than a full season at that OPS. The plan gives him 425 plate appearances, sharing first base with Morales and using some designated-hitter starts. [5,6]

Full MLB season	wOBA	xwOBA	SLG / xSLG
James Wood	0.383	0.403	0.503 / 0.548
CJ Abrams	0.358	0.333	0.497 / 0.438
Daylen Lile	0.312	0.324	0.429 / 0.442
Dylan Crews	0.294	0.317	0.374 / 0.419
Jacob Young	0.313	0.313	0.390 / 0.383
Brady House	0.313	0.333	0.397 / 0.434

Full MLB season	wOBA	xwOBA	SLG / xSLG
Andrés Chaparro	0.383	0.344	0.525 / 0.451
Keibert Ruiz	0.328	0.289	0.443 / 0.374
Harry Ford	0.302	0.296	0.350 / 0.332
Nasim Nuñez	0.251	0.268	0.244 / 0.274
Jorbit Vivas	0.298	0.292	0.322 / 0.309
Abimelec Ortiz	0.246	0.271	0.344 / 0.382
Luis García Jr.	0.355	0.341	0.521 / 0.486
Curtis Mead	0.370	0.358	0.498 / 0.457

Keibert Ruiz had a .759 OPS with only 37 strikeouts in 354 plate appearances. His .289 xwOBA was well below his .328 wOBA. Contact frequency is an advantage, but a low strikeout total alone does not establish strong contact. Washington should use that combination to guide his role and batting position, while continuing to evaluate Ford behind the plate.

House's .333 xwOBA exceeded his .313 wOBA. Crews also had a better expected line than actual line, .317 versus .294. Neither gap guarantees a rebound. It supports giving them a meaningful opportunity rather than purchasing a replacement simply because the most visible result was disappointing. The first checkpoint should examine swing decisions, contact and defensive execution together.

ANALYSIS / 06

Use handedness without building rigid platoons

Lile had a .585 OPS against left-handed pitching and .778 against right-handers. Crews produced .796 against left-handers and .600 against right-handers. Young also performed better against left-handers. Those splits create practical ways to keep four outfielders involved without treating each as an everyday player at every position. [5]

Batter / full MLB season	LHP PA / OPS	RHP PA / OPS
James Wood	217 / .791	406 / .949
CJ Abrams	206 / .730	448 / .884
Daylen Lile	181 / .585	474 / .778
Dylan Crews	142 / .796	301 / .600
Jacob Young	169 / .776	302 / .669
Brady House	115 / .975	240 / .586
Andrés Chaparro	146 / .888	82 / .880
Keibert Ruiz	98 / .784	256 / .750

Batter / full MLB season	LHP PA / OPS	RHP PA / OPS
Harry Ford	59 / .839	59 / .492
Nasim Nuñez	151 / .589	342 / .511
Jorbit Vivas	53 / .588	311 / .663
Abimelec Ortiz	10 / .400	126 / .586
Luis García Jr.	87 / .653	456 / .865
Curtis Mead	141 / .897	188 / .815

House's .975 OPS against left-handers came in 115 plate appearances. His .586 mark against right-handers came in 240. That is a meaningful development question, but the smaller sample is not a permanent true-talent estimate. Washington should give him enough right-handed matchups to improve and evaluate progress before substituting a strict platoon for development.

Ford's 59-plate-appearance samples against each side are especially small. A .839/.492 split should not dictate an entire catching season. Chaparro's smaller right-handed-pitcher sample also deserves caution. The workload plan uses handedness to improve specific lineups while keeping the core assignments broad enough to learn something new.

ANALYSIS / 07

Fix the middle before buying another bat

Abrams' three-year Outs Above Average sequence was minus-18, minus-11 and minus-17. Young's was plus-20, plus-14 and plus-11. Those repeated signals are more informative than a handful of conspicuous plays. Washington should preserve Young's center-field work and reduce the amount of shortstop defense it asks Abrams to provide. [7]

Fielder	2024 OAA	2025 OAA	2026 OAA	2026 opportunities
James Wood	-5	-7	-7	245
CJ Abrams	-18	-11	-17	534
Daylen Lile	No row	-8	+1	283
Dylan Crews	+2	+3	+4	244
Jacob Young	+20	+14	+11	356
Brady House	No row	+2	-4	223
Andrés Chaparro	+2	+0	-5	88
Nasim Nuñez	+2	+4	+4	555
Jorbit Vivas	No row	-1	+4	276
Yohandy Morales	No row	No row	+0	22
Abimelec Ortiz	No row	No row	+0	46

Fielder	2024 OAA	2025 OAA	2026 OAA	2026 opportunities
Nate Furman	No row	No row	-1	24

The club announced an Abrams move toward second base in August. Actual 2026 usage still included 127 starts and 1,118 innings at shortstop, compared with 12 starts and 103 innings at second. Nuñez had 96 starts at second and 35 at shortstop. The season-level OAA numbers therefore cannot be presented as full-season measurements at their proposed 2027 positions. [5,12]

Fielder	2026 WSH position	Starts / innings
CJ Abrams	2B	12 / 103.0
Dylan Crews	LF	11 / 92.0
Dylan Crews	CF	30 / 276.0
Brady House	1B	0 / 4.0
Daylen Lile	RF	4 / 39.0
Yohandy Morales	1B	10 / 86.0
Abimelec Ortiz	1B	23 / 195.1
Andrés Chaparro	1B	35 / 291.2
Dylan Crews	RF	60 / 528.0
Daylen Lile	LF	124 / 1106.2
Nasim Nuñez	2B	96 / 842.0
CJ Abrams	SS	127 / 1118.0
Nasim Nuñez	SS	35 / 319.0
Brady House	3B	71 / 644.1
Andrés Chaparro	3B	4 / 36.0
CJ Abrams	DH	11 / 0.0
Andrés Chaparro	DH	15 / 0.0
Dylan Crews	DH	0 / 0.0
Brady House	DH	6 / 0.0
Daylen Lile	DH	21 / 0.0
Yohandy Morales	DH	2 / 0.0
Nasim Nuñez	DH	0 / 0.0
Abimelec Ortiz	DH	10 / 0.0

The proposal assigns Abrams 130 starts at second and 12 at shortstop, Nuñez 85 at shortstop, and King 65 there. King had 64 Triple-A shortstop starts and 552 1/3 innings at the position. That is relevant experience, not proof of major-league range. A roster selection and a spring evaluation are still necessary. If King is not ready, the named fallback gives Nuñez more shortstop work and uses Vivas and Furman to cover the resulting second-base shifts.

Wood's minus-seven OAA supports preserving designated-hitter days. House's minus-four and Chaparro's minus-five also deserve attention. The solution is not to add those figures and call the total projected runs saved. OAA measures outs, its opportunities vary, and moving a player changes the fielding problem. The defensible claim is narrower: center-field continuity and reduced exposure at shortstop are sensible priorities.

ANALYSIS / 08

Catching should be a shared investment

Ruiz caught 816 1/3 Washington innings. Ford caught 257 and Drew Millas 363 2/3. Savant credited Ruiz with roughly plus-2.9 framing runs and plus-1.6 total catching runs. Ford's framing value was close to zero, while Millas was approximately plus-four. Framing and total catching value are different measures; missing aggregate values for Ford and Millas are left unknown. [8,9]

Catcher	2026 WSH catching IP	Full MLB framing	Full MLB catching value
Keibert Ruiz	816.1	+2.87	+1.64
Harry Ford	257.0	-0.05	Unknown
Drew Millas	363.2	+4.02	Unknown

The proposed distribution is 85 catching starts for Ford, 67 for Ruiz and 10 for Millas. Ford also gets 15 designated-hitter starts, Ruiz 20. Ford's Triple-A walks and his age-relative development case justify a meaningful opportunity, but the plan does not assume that his .664 MLB OPS instantly becomes an impact bat. The catching work is an investment in finding out what Washington has.

If Ford cannot carry that assignment, Ruiz adds 45 catching starts and Millas adds 40. Morales absorbs Ford's 15 designated-hitter starts. The plate appearances move separately: Ruiz receives 200, Millas 150 and Morales 75. Ruiz's total starts remain within a 162-game season. That alternative is more demanding on the incumbent, but it is a defined response rather than an unexplained depth allowance.

ANALYSIS / 09

Cavalli needs support, not an unlimited workload

Cade Cavalli made 32 starts, pitched 169 2/3 innings and recorded a 3.02 ERA with 200 strikeouts and 48 walks. His 3.68 xERA supplies a more cautious underlying view while still identifying a valuable starter. The club ended his season after a career-high workload. The plan assigns 30 starts and 165 innings, giving Washington a full starting contribution without assuming another immediate jump. [5,6,13,14]

Pitcher / MLB ID	GS / WSH IP	ERA / full MLB xERA	K / BB / HR	Planning treatment
Cade Cavalli / 676917	32 / 169.2	3.02 / 3.68	200 / 48 / 18	30 starts / 165 IP; protect workload

Pitcher / MLB ID	GS / WSH IP	ERA / full MLB xERA	K / BB / HR	Planning treatment
Andrew Alvarez / 674841	17 / 112.2	3.43 / 4.21	114 / 51 / 7	24 / 130; command matters
Jake Irvin / 663623	20 / 106.2	5.48 / 5.37	110 / 48 / 20	14 / 70; reduce exposure
Connelly Early / 813349	1 / 3.0	0.00 / 4.27	1 / 0 / 0	14 / 70; elbow-readiness condition
Brad Lord / 695418	5 / 83.1	3.78 / 3.92	77 / 33 / 10	10 / 50 plus 50 relief IP
Riley Cornelio / 683000	3 / 36.2	3.68 / 3.95	40 / 29 / 2	8 / 40; AAA/MLB development
Jackson Kent / 800600	7 / 36.1	5.94 / 5.44	30 / 25 / 2	8 / 40; developmental workload
Foster Griffin / 656492	22 / 129.1	3.06 / 4.35	116 / 30 / 19	Departed; alternative purchase only
Zack Littell / 641793	14 / 112.1	4.97 / 6.64	70 / 35 / 25	Released; no proposed MLB innings
Miles Mikolas / 571945	11 / 116.0	5.82 / 5.47	58 / 23 / 27	Free agent; no main-plan innings

Andrew Alvarez delivered a 3.43 official ERA in 112 2/3 Washington innings. Savant displays a slightly different rounded ERA, but the relevant expected figure is 4.21. His 51 walks make command an important part of a 24-start, 130-inning assignment. Jake Irvin's 5.48 ERA and 5.37 xERA provide less reason to expand his work. The proposal reduces him to a 14-start depth role rather than building the rotation around a rebound.

Connelly Early's elbow history limits what can be assumed despite his late-season activation. Fourteen starts and 70 innings are conditional. Brad Lord receives ten starts plus relief work. Riley Cornelio and Jackson Kent each receive eight starts. This distribution acknowledges that a five-man Opening Day rotation will not supply every start for six months.

ANALYSIS / 10

The relief staff needs command and shorter exposure

Washington's relief ERA was 4.99 across 730 2/3 innings. That is both a quality problem and a workload problem. Two dependable starter purchases should reduce the number of innings that the bullpen must cover, while Okert offers a candidate with 14 walks in 67 2/3 innings. His 2.13 ERA was stronger than his 3.13 xERA, but the underlying record still supports a relief investment. [1,5,6]

Pitcher	WSH IP	ERA / full MLB xERA	K / BB	Treatment
Orlando Ribalta	43.0	3.77 / 3.68	42 / 18	50 IP after forearm review
Will Dion	30.0	3.00 / 3.35	30 / 14	70 bulk relief IP
Brad Lord	83.1	3.78 / 3.92	77 / 33	50 relief; 100 combined IP

Pitcher	WSH IP	ERA / full MLB xERA	K / BB	Treatment
Clayton Beeter	48.0	4.50 / 4.79	47 / 31	50 IP; walk risk
Jake Bird	8.1	3.24 / 4.30	10 / 2	45 IP; full-season context
Erik Tolman	15.1	2.93 / 3.60	17 / 9	35 IP; small MLB sample
Eddy Yean	11.0	2.45 / 3.10	7 / 2	40 IP; AAA support
Braxton Roxby	0	No WSH sample / 3.25	0 / 0	25 IP; recent waiver claim
Jack Sinclair	11.0	2.45 / 4.06	8 / 4	35 IP; AAA support
Luis Perales	11.0	11.45 / 7.07	13 / 13	40 IP; command development
DJ Herz	7.0	10.29 / 11.82	6 / 3	25 IP after recovery review
Josiah Gray	4.0	0.00 / 2.34	2 / 1	20 IP after recovery review
Carson Palmquist	16.1	7.71 / 4.89	15 / 8	40 IP; depth
Matt Waldron	5.2	0.00 / 3.55	2 / 1	No main-plan IP; chest recovery
Gus Varland	33.0	6.55 / 6.98	32 / 15	No main-plan IP; poor results
Kyle Nicolas	0	No WSH sample / 9.06	0 / 0	No main-plan IP; poor results

The current staff contains useful pieces and substantial uncertainty. Ribalta's 3.77 ERA and 3.68 xERA are encouraging, but his forearm history matters. Dion's full-season expected record supports a bulk role. Beeter's 31 walks in 48 Washington innings are a warning even alongside 47 strikeouts. Perales' brief major-league sample included 13 walks in 11 innings. More velocity or strikeouts cannot make every free baserunner disappear.

Tolman, Yean, Roxby and Sinclair receive modest assignments rather than being promoted from small samples to established late-inning status. Their combined contribution matters, but each needs a performance and availability gate. The plan carries no principal innings for Waldron, Varland or Nicolas. They remain roster decisions, not hidden sources of improvement.

ANALYSIS / 11

Availability is a separate question

Early's 2026 record includes an elbow injured-list placement, a later 60-day transfer, rehabilitation work and a September 26 activation. Herz returned in September after an earlier left UCL sprain. Gray's right flexor recovery also ended with a September activation. These transactions establish administrative events. They do not prove a full 2027 workload. [4,11]

The main plan therefore assigns only 25 relief innings to Herz and 20 to Gray. It also keeps a defined alternative if neither is available. Lord's side injury and Ribalta's September forearm absence require current review. Millas' finger-related absence and November reinstatement matter to catching depth. Waldron's chest-related injured-list history is one reason no principal workload is assigned to him.

Soroka's August arm-related absence and September return must be reviewed before an offer. Okert's late-season health record also remains part of the purchase decision. A medical failure can invalidate a

proposed allocation even when a player's season line looks attractive. The reserve is not credited with innings until a named replacement is available at a verified price.

ANALYSIS / 12

The farm can solve specific jobs

King hit .858 at Triple-A in 356 plate appearances after a .989 OPS in 165 Double-A plate appearances. His 16 Triple-A home runs and 64 shortstop starts make him a reasonable candidate for a real 2027 role. The assignment is 325 plate appearances and 65 starts at shortstop, contingent on selection and readiness. It is not a claim that his minor-league OPS will transfer unchanged. [15,16,17]

Player / MLB ID	2026 level and sample	Readiness decision
Seaver King / 814409	AAA: 356 PA, .858 OPS, 16 HR; 28 BB / 81 K	325 PA and 65 SS starts after selection
Yohandy Morales / 691002	AAA: 455 PA, .882 OPS, 25 HR; 43 BB / 111 K	300 PA; first/third-base coverage
Abimelec Ortiz / 694673	AAA: 365 PA, .845 OPS, 18 HR; 43 BB / 71 K	200 PA; first-base depth
Harry Ford / 695670	AAA: 257 PA, .705 OPS, 4 HR; 45 BB / 65 K	425 PA, 85 C starts; development priority
Brady House / 691781	AAA: 222 PA, .842 OPS, 8 HR; 12 BB / 53 K	550 PA with actual alternative
Cayden Wallace / 691024	AAA: 246 PA, .872 OPS, 11 HR; 18 BB / 45 K	3B alternative after selection
Trey Lipscomb / 702358	AAA: 556 PA, .861 OPS, 32 HR; 30 BB / 145 K	Reserve only; no MLB quota
Maxwell Romero Jr. / 686912	AAA: 165 PA, .881 OPS, 10 HR; 19 BB / 61 K	Catching reserve after selection
Luis Perales / 691384	AAA: 96.1 IP, 3.64 ERA; 97 K / 55 BB	40 relief IP; alternate starting work
Riley Cornelio / 683000	AAA: 66.0 IP, 3.68 ERA; 103 K / 30 BB	40 starting IP
Jackson Kent / 800600	AAA: 63.2 IP, 4.38 ERA; 67 K / 22 BB	40 starting IP
Eddy Yean / 678868	AAA: 61.2 IP, 3.21 ERA; 63 K / 28 BB	40 relief IP
Alex Clemmey / 806046	AA: 128.0 IP, 4.64 ERA; 138 K / 78 BB	Development only; walk rate first
Ethan Petry / 701337	AA: 276 PA, .751 OPS, 15 HR; 19 BB / 97 K	Development only; no MLB quota

Morales had 25 Triple-A home runs and an .882 OPS in 455 plate appearances. Ortiz hit 18 home runs with an .845 OPS in 365. They supply enough first-base depth to make a substantial external purchase difficult to justify. Chaparro deserves a chance, but he should not consume every opportunity merely because his brief MLB results were stronger.

Cayden Wallace is the named third-base alternative if House's development stalls. His Triple-A .872 OPS came with 45 strikeouts and 18 walks in 246 plate appearances. That is a reason to evaluate him, not an automatic upgrade. Trey Lipscomb and Maxwell Romero remain depth candidates without guaranteed MLB allocations. Minor-league options must still fit a legal roster and a useful playing-time schedule.

Perales' 96 1/3 Triple-A innings included 97 strikeouts and 55 walks. Cornelio struck out 103 in 66 Triple-A innings. Those profiles explain different development priorities. The first needs more command before a large starting burden; the second needs to show that his bat-missing ability holds across an extended major-league

assignment. Alex Clemmey's 78 Double-A walks in 128 innings support patience. Ethan Petry's 97 strikeouts in 276 Double-A plate appearances do not call for a rushed MLB role.

ANALYSIS / 13

Price the work, then choose the pitcher

Martinez pitched 180 innings with a 3.10 ERA, 109 strikeouts and 26 walks. His 3.98 xERA is less spectacular than the ERA. His appeal here is the combination of volume and control, purchased at an annual ceiling of $13-15 million for two years. The plan does not need him to become an ace. It needs him to keep a large block of innings away from uncertain depth. [5,6,18]

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	A: 2 years / $26-30M; 30 starts / 165 IP
Michael Soroka / 647336	116.0 IP, 3.41 ERA, 4.12 xERA; 114 K / 29 BB	A/B: 1 year / $8-10M; 24 starts / 125 IP; arm check
Steven Okert / 595345	67.2 IP, 2.13 ERA, 3.13 xERA; 68 K / 14 BB	A/B: 2 years / $16-20M; 60 relief IP
Foster Griffin / 656492	172.2 IP, 3.60 ERA, 4.35 xERA; 158 K / 45 BB	B: 2 years / $28-32M; 30 starts / 165 IP instead of Martinez
Raisel Iglesias / 628452	60.0 IP, 2.55 ERA, 3.50 xERA; 64 K / 17 BB	Alternative: 1 year / $10-12M; 60 IP instead of Okert, not funded
Jameson Taillon / 592791	86.0 IP, 5.65 ERA, 5.96 xERA; 76 K / 32 BB	Minor or incentive-led inquiry only; no principal workload
Lucas Giolito / 608337	29.2 IP, 5.16 ERA, 5.62 xERA; 18 K / 23 BB	Elbow/command concerns; no main-plan purchase
Zack Littell / 641793	124.1 IP, 5.21 ERA, 6.64 xERA; 73 K / 39 BB	Released; 6.64 xERA; no main-plan purchase
Gleyber Torres / 650402	420 PA, .727 OPS, 8 HR; 0.328/0.325 wOBA/xwOBA	2B alternative only; $14-16M annual ceiling, not funded
Luis Arraez / 650333	655 PA, .764 OPS, 6 HR; 0.331/0.307 wOBA/xwOBA	1B/contact alternative only; $12-14M annual ceiling, not funded
Luis Rengifo / 650859	354 PA, .636 OPS, 4 HR; 0.289/0.304 wOBA/xwOBA	Utility alternative only; $4-6M annual ceiling, knee gate, not funded

Soroka adds a different profile: 114 strikeouts and 29 walks in 116 innings, with a 3.41 ERA and 4.12 xERA. The one-year, $8-10 million ceiling reflects both useful pitching and the need to verify his arm. Twenty-four starts and 125 innings are a modest increase from the recent sample, not an assumption of 180 innings from a medically uncertain pitcher.

Griffin is the first alternative to Martinez. His Washington ERA was 3.06, but his full-season line was 3.60 with a 4.35 xERA across 172 2/3 innings. The whole season is the appropriate basis for the purchase. A two-year, $28-32 million ceiling is defensible for that workload, but Martinez's much lower walk total gives him the edge for this particular staff.

Raisel Iglesias is an alternative to Okert at a one-year, $10-12 million ceiling. Substitution would increase annual spending by $2 million at matching endpoints and reduce the reliever commitment from two years to one. Taillon and Giolito require a much more cautious medical and performance review. Littell's 6.64 xERA is not a reason to reacquire him simply because Washington already carries a buyout allocation.

ANALYSIS / 14

Compare the same names honestly

Martinez's two-year, $26-30 million ceiling matches the role and pricing considered elsewhere in this series, including Atlanta's alternative and Kansas City's preferred path. Washington assigns 165 innings, consistent with that level of responsibility. The same pitcher cannot be counted as simultaneously obtainable by every club. Each dossier is an independent negotiating scenario.

Soroka's one-year, $8-10 million range is consistent with Cleveland and Arizona preparation. His job here is 24 starts and 125 innings, with an explicit health condition. Okert's $8-10 million annual range matches Seattle's proposed relief purchase. Washington values his control because its internal bullpen contains several high-walk candidates; that explains the fit without inventing a cheaper price for the same player.

Griffin is tested as a different starter path, and the internal plan purchases nobody. Torres would compete with Abrams at second base. Arraez would occupy first-base and designated-hitter opportunities that currently test Chaparro, Morales and Ortiz. Rengifo offers utility flexibility but brings a recent knee gate and does not solve the primary pitching burden. Their candidate ceilings are displayed for comparison, with no salary or production secretly added to the preferred plan.

No prospect return is attached to the three proposed free-agent agreements. A qualifying offer could add draft or international-allocation costs, and current status must be checked before a bid. A trade alternative would require an actual counterpart, player-control record and outgoing-value analysis. This report does not turn an attractive name into an invented available trade package.

ANALYSIS / 15

Separate guaranteed salaries from estimates

The two principal 2027 guaranteed salary allocations in this model are Ruiz at $5.375 million and Cavalli at $5 million. Cavalli's four-year agreement runs through 2030, with a separate 2031 club option. The current-year allocation is not the same as the total guarantee or average annual value. [10,13]

Player / MLB ID	2027 allocation	Basis
Keibert Ruiz / 660688	$5.375M	Signed through 2030; later club options separate
Cade Cavalli / 676917	$5.000M	2027 extension salary; 2031 option separate
TOTAL	$10.375M	Salary allocation, not tax AAV

Five current-roster arbitration estimates total $18.8 million: Abrams $10.2 million, Irvin $3.4 million, Young $2.3 million, Gray $1.6 million and Bird $1.3 million. These are unsigned estimates, not completed agreements. The model retains them in full. It does not claim savings from a non-tender that has not happened.

Player	Estimate, $M	Treatment
Josiah Gray	1.60	Unsigned current-roster estimate
CJ Abrams	10.20	Unsigned current-roster estimate
Jake Bird	1.30	Unsigned current-roster estimate
Jake Irvin	3.40	Unsigned current-roster estimate
Jacob Young	2.30	Unsigned current-roster estimate
TOTAL	18.80	Five players; departed names excluded

The RosterResource $4 million Littell buyout allocation is preserved as a reserve pending reconciliation of responsibility and payment timing. His release does not automatically erase a financial obligation. Conversely, a buyout reserve does not put him back in the rotation. The financial and baseball treatments must remain separate.

ANALYSIS / 16

The budget needs an actual roster underneath it

RosterResource's 2027 headline is $33.175 million. The bridge used here is $10.375 million of salary allocations, $18.8 million of arbitration estimates and the $4 million buyout reserve. It then adds $18-22 million for the large pre-arbitration roster, minor-league depth and callups. The resulting existing-roster envelope is $51.175-55.175 million. [10]

Component	Annual allocation	Definition
Two guaranteed salaries	$10.375M	Ruiz and Cavalli
Five arbitration estimates	$18.80M	No non-tender savings assumed
Littell buyout reserve	$4.00M	Source allocation; reconcile payment timing/liability
Pre-arb, minors and callups	$18-22M	Large young roster; no assumed 2027 minimum
Existing-roster envelope	$51.175-55.175M	Player allocation; excludes benefits/tax and deferred legacy cash
RosterResource 2027 headline	$33.175M	Two salaries + five arbitration estimates + Littell reserve; add roster pool
RosterResource 2026 estimate	$97.550276M	Historical allocation, not ownership-approved 2027 budget
Strasburg legacy payments	Cash schedule separate	2026 contract end is not proof all deferred cash is paid

That pool is a planning allowance. It is not a claim that the next minimum salary, every callup or every assignment has been agreed. The report excludes benefits, tax accounting and legacy deferred cash from this player-allocation comparison. The expiration of Stephen Strasburg's playing-contract term does not establish that every deferred payment has been made. A full cash budget requires the actual payment schedule.

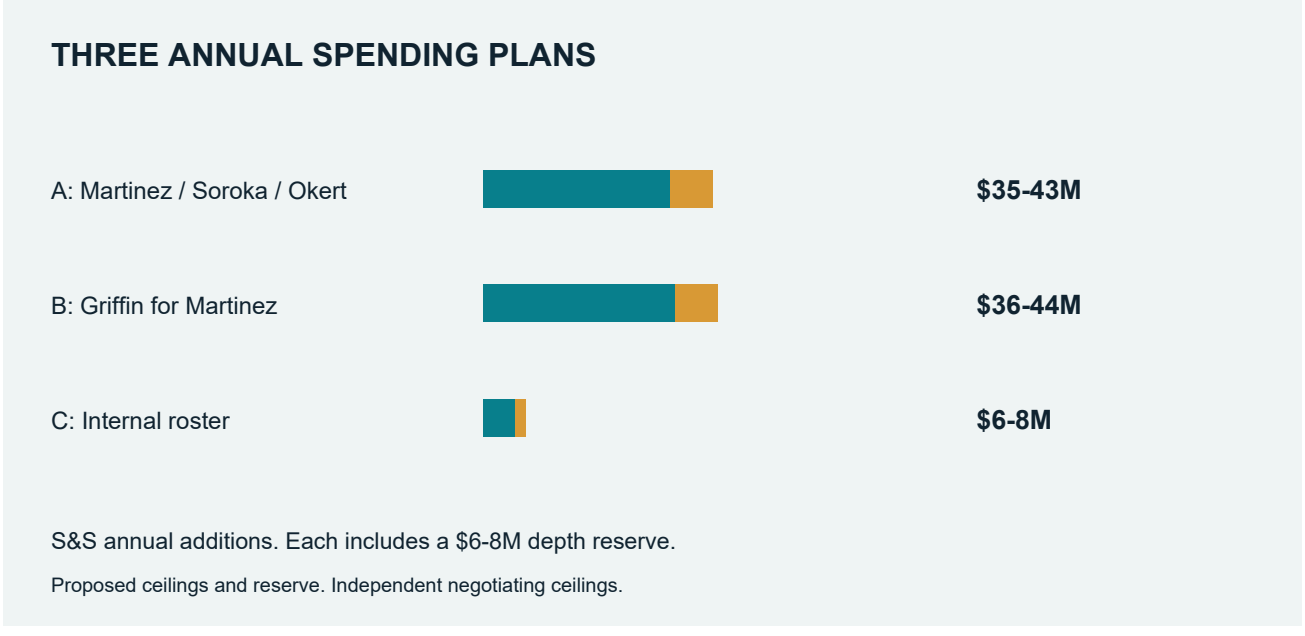
The source's 2026 payroll estimate of $97.550276 million provides a scale comparison. It is not authorization from ownership to spend the same amount in 2027. The preferred plan reaches approximately $86.2-98.2 million under these definitions, which makes a serious pitching investment plausible to examine. Ownership's actual budget remains unknown.

ANALYSIS / 17

Three complete financial choices

Plan A's annual additions are $13-15 million for Martinez, $8-10 million for Soroka, $8-10 million for Okert and $6-8 million reserved for depth. The total is $35-43 million. The new commitments, including the one-year reserve, total $56-68 million because Martinez and Okert are two-year proposals. The resulting annual player-allocation envelope is $86.175-98.175 million.

Plan	Annual additions	Total allocation	New commitment
A: Martinez / Soroka / Okert	$35-43M	$86.175-98.175M	$56-68M
B: Griffin replaces Martinez	$36-44M	$87.175-99.175M	$58-70M
C: Internal staff	$6-8M	$57.175-63.175M	$6-8M



Plan B substitutes Griffin at $14-16 million annually for Martinez. It adds $36-44 million annually, produces an $87.175-99.175 million total allocation and commits $58-70 million. It buys the same number of planned starts and innings from that slot. The change is the pitcher's profile and price, not an extra starter layered into the same budget.

Plan C keeps only the $6-8 million reserve, producing a $57.175-63.175 million annual envelope. That reserve earns no assumed runs, plate appearances or innings. All scheduled work is reassigned to named internal players. The plan preserves cash and roster flexibility while accepting substantially greater pitching risk.

ANALYSIS / 18

Assign the plate appearances and the positions

The batting plan totals 6,200 plate appearances across 17 players over the full season. It is not a proposed simultaneous 17-man position-player group. The principal 13 comprise Wood, Abrams, Lile, Crews, Young, House, Chaparro, Morales, Ruiz, Ford, Nuñez, King and Vivas. Millas, Ortiz, Furman and Pinckney provide season coverage through actual roster moves. [5,15,19]

Hitter	PA	Condition
James Wood	650	Health, performance and roster allocation
CJ Abrams	650	Health, performance and roster allocation
Daylen Lile	575	Health, performance and roster allocation
Dylan Crews	525	Health, performance and roster allocation
Jacob Young	450	Health, performance and roster allocation
Brady House	550	Health, performance and roster allocation
Andrés Chaparro	425	Health, performance and roster allocation
Yohandy Morales	300	Health, performance and roster allocation
Abimelec Ortiz	200	Health, performance and roster allocation
Keibert Ruiz	375	Health, performance and roster allocation
Harry Ford	425	Health, performance and roster allocation
Drew Millas	100	Health, performance and roster allocation
Nasim Nuñez	350	Health, performance and roster allocation
Seaver King	325	Major-roster selection and readiness required
Jorbit Vivas	150	Health, performance and roster allocation
Nate Furman	75	Health, performance and roster allocation
Andrew Pinckney	75	Health, performance and roster allocation
TOTAL	6200	Season use; not simultaneous active roster

Each defensive position and designated hitter receives 162 starts. No player exceeds 162 total starts. This matters particularly for Abrams and Wood, whose designated-hitter opportunities must fit around their field assignments, and for the catching pair, whose designated-hitter work cannot be counted as extra days in the season.

Pos.	162-start allocation	Condition
C	Ford 85; Ruiz 67; Millas 10	A/B/C position-player plan; named failure branches separate
1B	Chaparro 90; Morales 50; Ortiz 22	A/B/C position-player plan; named failure branches separate
2B	Abrams 130; Vivas 22; Furman 10	A/B/C position-player plan; named failure branches separate
3B	House 140; Morales 12; Vivas 10	A/B/C position-player plan; named failure branches separate
SS	Nuñez 85; King 65; Abrams 12	A/B/C position-player plan; named failure branches separate
LF	Wood 105; Lile 40; Pinckney 17	A/B/C position-player plan; named failure branches separate
CF	Young 120; Crews 42	A/B/C position-player plan; named failure branches separate
RF	Crews 83; Lile 75; Pinckney 4	A/B/C position-player plan; named failure branches separate
DH	Wood 40; Chaparro 20; Lile 20; Ruiz 20; Ford 15; Abrams 8; Morales 15; Ortiz 24	A/B/C position-player plan; named failure branches separate

King is a selection decision rather than an assumed occupied major-league roster place. With the current 41-name snapshot unresolved, Washington must establish legal capacity before adding him or any of the three free agents. Low-performing pitching depth can be reviewed, but this plan does not assume a specific player has already been removed or that removing him generates meaningful salary savings.

ANALYSIS / 19

Assign the innings without double counting

The preferred rotation budget totals 162 starts and 855 innings. The bullpen receives 585, for a 1,440-inning planning envelope. Actual innings vary with road losses, extra innings and other game circumstances. The envelope is a workload exercise rather than an exact prediction of the schedule's final innings total.

Pitcher	GS / IP	Condition
Cade Cavalli	30 / 165	Health, workload and performance gate
Nick Martinez	30 / 165	Proposed agreement and medical review
Michael Soroka	24 / 125	Proposed agreement and medical review
Andrew Alvarez	24 / 130	Health, workload and performance gate
Connelly Early	14 / 70	Health, workload and performance gate
Jake Irvin	14 / 70	Health, workload and performance gate

Pitcher	GS / IP	Condition
Brad Lord	10 / 50	Health, workload and performance gate
Riley Cornelio	8 / 40	Health, workload and performance gate
Jackson Kent	8 / 40	Health, workload and performance gate
TOTAL	162 / 855	No dependence on unassigned injury returns

Pitcher	IP	Condition
Steven Okert	60	Proposed agreement
Orlando Ribalta	50	Return readiness required
Brad Lord	50	Combined starter/relief total 100 IP
Will Dion	70	Health, roster and performance gate
Clayton Beeter	50	Health, roster and performance gate
Jake Bird	45	Health, roster and performance gate
Erik Tolman	35	Health, roster and performance gate
Eddy Yean	40	Health, roster and performance gate
Braxton Roxby	25	Health, roster and performance gate
Jack Sinclair	35	Health, roster and performance gate
Luis Perales	40	Health, roster and performance gate
DJ Herz	25	Return readiness required
Josiah Gray	20	Return readiness required
Carson Palmquist	40	Health, roster and performance gate
TOTAL	585	855 starter innings plus relief = 1,440

Lord is the important overlap: 50 starting innings and 50 relief innings make 100 combined. The plan does not assign 100 relief innings and then quietly add starts. Herz, Gray and Ribalta carry specific return conditions. Perales receives a relief role in the preferred plan while the more demanding internal scenario shifts him toward starting work.

Compared with 2026, the main plan moves approximately 149 innings into the starting group and reduces bullpen dependence. It does not assume that moving the innings alone improves their quality. Martinez and Soroka must provide the proposed work at an acceptable level; otherwise the named alternatives take more innings, with the associated uncertainty.

ANALYSIS / 20

What happens if the deals or returns fail

Without Martinez, Irvin, Lord and Cornelio each add eight starts and 45 innings, while Perales supplies six starts and 30 innings. Lord converts 45 of his relief innings into starting work. Those relief innings move to Dion, Herz, Gray and Palmquist, preserving Lord's 100-inning combined budget.

Change from A	Removed workload	Named replacement
B: Griffin for Martinez	30 GS / 165 IP	Griffin 30 / 165; all other work unchanged
C: no Martinez	30 GS / 165 IP	Irvin +8 / 45, Lord +8 / 45, Cornelio +8 / 45, Perales 6 / 30
C: Lord relief conversion	45 relief IP	Dion +15, Herz +10, Gray +10, Palmquist +10; Lord stays 100 total
C: no Soroka	24 GS / 125 IP	Jackson Kent +8 / 40, Perales +8 / 45, Palmquist 8 / 40
C: no Okert	60 relief IP	Dion, Ribalta, Bird, Tolman, Roxby, Sinclair +10 each
No Early	14 GS / 70 IP	Jackson Kent +4 / 20, Cornelio +4 / 20, Irvin +4 / 20, Lord +2 / 10; Lord relief -10, Dion/Perales +5 each
No King	325 PA; 65 SS starts	Nuñez +200 PA / 50 SS; Abrams +15 SS and -15 2B; Vivas +75 PA / 10 2B; Furman +50 PA / 5 2B
No Ford	425 PA; 85 C / 15 DH	Ruiz +200 PA / 45 C; Millas +150 / 40 C; Morales +75 / 15 DH; Ruiz max 132 total starts
No Gray or Herz	45 relief IP	Ribalta +10, Dion +10, Yean +10, Sinclair +10, Tolman +5
No Ribalta	50 relief IP	Bird +10, Beeter +10, Yean +10, Sinclair +10, Roxby +10
House struggles	200 PA; 45 3B starts	Cayden Wallace after roster selection; no assumed improvement
Multiple failures	Combined recalculation required	Individual branches are not automatically additive; reserve has no unnamed production

Without Soroka, Jackson Kent adds eight starts and 40 innings, Perales adds eight and 45, and Palmquist supplies eight and 40. Removing Okert shifts ten relief innings each to Dion, Ribalta, Bird, Tolman, Roxby and Sinclair. Under the combined internal plan, Perales reaches 115 total innings and Palmquist 90. Dion reaches 95 relief innings, a heavy bulk assignment that makes the risk visible.

The Early, King, Ford, Gray/Herz, Ribalta and House branches show individual recovery choices. They should not be stacked mechanically. If several medical assumptions fail together, the club must recalculate availability and active-roster coverage. A spreadsheet that still totals 1,440 innings is not proof that a healthy pitcher is available for each one.

The internal plan is a credible organizational fallback, but it is not the preferred competitive decision. It asks substantially more of pitchers with thin MLB records, recent injuries or command problems. Washington's strongest use of money is to keep that plan available without having to make it the default on Opening Day.

ANALYSIS / 21

The strongest countercase

The argument against spending on Martinez, Soroka and Okert is that the lineup may regress after losing productive contributors, while the proposed pitchers carry their own age, health and expected-performance risks. If the club cannot retain an offense near 821 runs, merely buying innings may leave it with a more expensive losing team. That objection is serious.

Illustrative change from 2026	RS / RA	Margin	162-game simple run-ratio wins
Unchanged runs	821 / 815	+6	81.6
Lose 40 runs; allow 40 fewer	781 / 775	+6	81.6
Same offense; allow 60 fewer	821 / 755	+66	87.8
Score 30 more; allow 30 fewer	851 / 785	+66	87.5
Lose 60 runs; same prevention	761 / 815	-54	75.5

The sensitivity table shows how quickly the answer changes. Losing 40 runs while allowing 40 fewer leaves a similar run balance. Holding the offense while allowing 60 fewer produces a substantially stronger balance. These are arithmetic illustrations using a squared-runs formula, not projected wins attributed to individual signings. No target's ERA is simply pasted onto the team's old innings.

The recommendation rests on a narrower judgment. Washington already has several young hitters worth evaluating and a pronounced starting-workload gap. Modest-duration pitching agreements address that gap without locking the club into a veteran at every developmental position. If bids exceed the stated ceilings or medical reviews fail, the internal plan is preferable to paying an inflated price for the wrong pitcher.

ANALYSIS / 22

The reconciled player list and decision gates

The following 41 names appear in both official roster surfaces at the research snapshot. Their presence is reported as a source observation, with legal capacity unresolved. Activation is administrative and does not replace a current health evaluation. Historical contributors and external candidates are kept separate in the earlier tables. [3,4,19]

Player / MLB ID	Pos.	Snapshot treatment
Abimelec Ortiz / 694673	1B	Official dated feed and website list 41; count unresolved, no empty slot assumed
Andrew Alvarez / 674841	P	Official dated feed and website list 41; count unresolved, no empty slot assumed
Andrew Pinckney / 687605	LF	Official dated feed and website list 41; count unresolved, no empty slot assumed
Andrés Chaparro / 665953	1B	Official dated feed and website list 41; count unresolved, no empty slot assumed
Brad Lord / 695418	P	Official dated feed and website list 41; count unresolved, no empty slot assumed
Brady House / 691781	3B	Official dated feed and website list 41; count unresolved, no empty slot assumed
Braxton Roxby / 694820	P	Official dated feed and website list 41; count unresolved, no empty slot assumed
CJ Abrams / 682928	SS	Official dated feed and website list 41; count unresolved, no empty slot assumed
Cade Cavalli / 676917	P	Official dated feed and website list 41; count unresolved, no empty slot assumed
Carson Palmquist / 687223	P	Official dated feed and website list 41; count unresolved, no empty slot assumed
Clayton Beeter / 690925	P	Official dated feed and website list 41; count unresolved, no empty slot assumed
Connelly Early / 813349	P	Official dated feed and website list 41; count unresolved, no empty slot assumed
DJ Herz / 687792	P	Official dated feed and website list 41; count unresolved, no empty slot assumed
Daylen Lile / 695734	LF	Official dated feed and website list 41; count unresolved, no empty slot assumed
Drew Millas / 686452	C	Official dated feed and website list 41; count unresolved, no empty slot assumed

Player / MLB ID	Pos.	Snapshot treatment
Dylan Crews / 686611	RF	Official dated feed and website list 41; count unresolved, no empty slot assumed
Eddy Yean / 678868	P	Official dated feed and website list 41; count unresolved, no empty slot assumed
Erik Tolman / 680899	P	Official dated feed and website list 41; count unresolved, no empty slot assumed
Gus Varland / 681402	P	Official dated feed and website list 41; count unresolved, no empty slot assumed
Harry Ford / 695670	C	Official dated feed and website list 41; count unresolved, no empty slot assumed
Jack Sinclair / 695378	P	Official dated feed and website list 41; count unresolved, no empty slot assumed
Jackson Kent / 800600	P	Official dated feed and website list 41; count unresolved, no empty slot assumed
Jacob Young / 696285	CF	Official dated feed and website list 41; count unresolved, no empty slot assumed
Jake Bird / 656234	P	Official dated feed and website list 41; count unresolved, no empty slot assumed
Jake Irvin / 663623	P	Official dated feed and website list 41; count unresolved, no empty slot assumed
James Wood / 695578	RF	Official dated feed and website list 41; count unresolved, no empty slot assumed
Jared Simpson / 688692	P	Official dated feed and website list 41; count unresolved, no empty slot assumed
Jorbit Vivas / 678391	3B	Official dated feed and website list 41; count unresolved, no empty slot assumed
Josiah Gray / 680686	P	Official dated feed and website list 41; count unresolved, no empty slot assumed
Keibert Ruiz / 660688	C	Official dated feed and website list 41; count unresolved, no empty slot assumed
Kyle Nicolas / 693312	P	Official dated feed and website list 41; count unresolved, no empty slot assumed
Luis Perales / 691384	P	Official dated feed and website list 41; count unresolved, no empty slot assumed
Matt Waldron / 663362	P	Official dated feed and website list 41; count unresolved, no empty slot assumed
Nasim Nuñez / 683083	2B	Official dated feed and website list 41; count unresolved, no empty slot assumed
Nate Furman / 801501	2B	Official dated feed and website list 41; count unresolved, no empty slot assumed
Orlando Ribalta / 687377	P	Official dated feed and website list 41; count unresolved, no empty slot assumed

Player / MLB ID	Pos.	Snapshot treatment
Riley Cornelio / 683000	P	Official dated feed and website list 41; count unresolved, no empty slot assumed
Will Dion / 702021	P	Official dated feed and website list 41; count unresolved, no empty slot assumed
Yohandy Morales / 691002	1B	Official dated feed and website list 41; count unresolved, no empty slot assumed
Yovanny Cruz / 672442	P	Official dated feed and website list 41; count unresolved, no empty slot assumed
Zak Kent / 687849	P	Official dated feed and website list 41; count unresolved, no empty slot assumed

Before executing the proposed acquisitions, Washington must resolve legal roster capacity and any remaining designation outcomes. Recheck every candidate's market, qualifying-offer status and medical record. Confirm the budget's arbitration estimates, Littell obligation and actual roster pool. Evaluate King at shortstop, Ford's catching workload and the conditional pitchers before turning these allocations into an Opening Day roster.

The preferred order of work is clear: secure dependable starting innings, add relief command, reorganize the middle infield and protect meaningful opportunities for the young position players. Washington's offense gave it a competitive foundation in 2026. The next step is a pitching plan that can support it through an entire season.

ANALYSIS / 23

Definitions and sources

All performance tables use the completed 2026 regular season unless another year or level is identified. Washington-only samples and full MLB seasons are labeled separately. Innings use baseball notation: .1 is one out and .2 is two outs. OPS combines on-base and slugging percentages. Weighted on-base average assigns different values to offensive outcomes; expected wOBA uses the quality of contact and other observed outcomes. Expected ERA is descriptive context, not a medical assessment or a forecast.

Outs Above Average measures range in outs. Framing and catching run values measure different elements of receiving and defense. Missing values remain unknown. Minor-league statistics identify an actual level and sample; no fixed conversion to MLB is assumed. The workload and spending figures are S&S scenarios, with price ceilings distinct from reported contracts and annual allocation distinct from total commitment.

[1] MLB: Nationals regular-season statistics

2024-26 completed seasons; Washington and full-league player data saved separately.

Open source

[2] MLB: completed Washington game log

162 regular-season finals; one-run and extra-inning results independently counted.

Open source

[3] MLB: dated major-league roster

Feed and official website list 41 names; legal capacity unresolved, no empty place assumed.

Open source

[4] MLB: Nationals transactions

Team and individual histories reconciled; later free agency overrides stale profile affiliations.

Open source

[5] MLB: individual statistics and splits

Full MLB seasons, Washington-only samples, positional innings and handedness splits distinguished.

Open source

[6] Baseball Savant: expected statistics

Batting and pitching files for 2024-26. Descriptive measures, not forecasts.

Open source

[7] Baseball Savant: Outs Above Average

Three-year range record and opportunity counts; mixed-position totals are not a full-season single-position rating.

Open source

[8] Baseball Savant: catcher framing

Full MLB framing values; missing data remains unknown.

Open source

[9] Baseball Savant: fielding run value

Total catching value is distinct from framing alone.

Open source

[10] FanGraphs RosterResource: Nationals payroll

Dated salary allocations, arbitration estimates and buyout reserve, checked November 3. The roster pool is an S&S allowance.

Open source

[11] MLB: Nationals injuries and roster moves

Public injury reports checked alongside individual injured-list and rehabilitation transactions.

Open source

[12] MLB: Abrams position change

August announcement; actual season innings are shown separately.

Open source

[13] MLB: Cavalli extension

Four-year agreement beginning in 2027; later option and buyout are separate from current salary.

Open source

[14] MLB: Cavalli workload shutdown

Dated workload context, not a new injury diagnosis.

Open source

[15] MLB: Rochester statistics

Triple-A hitting, pitching, fielding and roster records saved separately.

Open source

[16] MLB: Harrisburg statistics

Double-A results kept separate from Triple-A and MLB.

Open source

[17] MLB: King development

Dated player context; quantitative totals taken from level-specific official statistics.

Open source

[18] MLBPA: free-agent register

Candidate status also checked through individual MLB transactions.

Open source

[19] MLB: organization roster

Major-roster observations, minor assignments and departures are separately classified.

Open source

[20] MLB: García trade

Former Washington contributor, not retained lineup production.

Open source

[21] MLB: Griffin trade

Washington and Cleveland pitching samples are separate; later free agency verified.

Open source

[22] Stadium & Street: cross-club analysis

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

Open source

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