STADIUM & STREET

THE 2027 ROSTER PROJECT / COLORADO ROCKIES

Colorado needs a pitching floor beneath its young offense

Buy usable innings. Give the young lineup room.

58	-192	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.

01. The decision / 3
02. What improved, and what did not / 4
03. Coors explains part of the problem / 5
04. The roster after the transactions / 5
05. The offense that earned another look / 6
06. Contact quality challenges the headline numbers / 7
07. Three-year evidence and platoon use / 8
08. Defense needs defined jobs / 10
09. Keep Goodman's bat and manage the catching load / 12
10. The starting rotation needs purchased coverage / 13
11. Injured pitchers cannot be the missing budget line / 14
12. Relief command before bullpen titles / 14
13. The farm should supply answers, not decoration / 15
14. The acquisition choices / 17
15. Compare the same players across clubs / 18
16. Contracts that stay in the budget / 19
17. Arbitration and the full roster pool / 20
18. Three complete spending paths / 21
19. Give the hitters enough work to learn / 22
20. Account for all 1,440 innings / 23
21. What happens when the preferred plan fails / 25
22. The strongest argument against spending / 26
23. Player register, definitions and sources / 27

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

Colorado scored 155 more runs than it had a year earlier and still lost 104 games. The improvement was real. So was the distance remaining. A club that allowed 944 runs cannot build its next offseason around another corner bat and a hopeful list of recovering pitchers. It needs a staff that can carry the schedule while its young hitters reveal which parts of the offensive rebound will last. [1]

Our preferred plan offers Erick Fedde one year at $7-9 million, Michael Soroka one year at $8-10 million and Jordan Romano one year at $4-6 million. A separate $6-8 million reserve covers needs that emerge. Annual additions total $25-33 million, producing a player-allocation envelope of approximately $110.81-122.81 million. These are S&S negotiating ceilings, subject to current medical and market review. None is a reported offer or an approved Colorado budget.

Fedde receives a proposed 30 starts and 155 innings. Soroka receives 24 starts and 125 innings. Romano receives 50 relief innings without a closer guarantee. Together they occupy meaningful jobs, but leave 108 starts and 560 relief innings for the organization. The proposal buys enough outside work to keep every young pitcher from having to solve the same problem at once.

The position-player recommendation is more restrained. Keep substantial roles for TJ Rumfield, Hunter Goodman, Kyle Karros, Cole Carrigg and Ezequiel Tovar. Give Adael Amador a genuine second-base opportunity. Create specific routes for Sterlin Thompson, Zac Veen and Charlie Condon, rather than promising full-time work to every prospect. Retain Kris Bryant's $27 million allocation while assigning him no principal plate appearances. A return would require a new playing-time decision, not an assumption that his salary disappears if he cannot play. [3,5,10]

There are two complete alternatives. Plan B replaces Fedde with Nick Martinez at two years and $26-30 million, raising annual additions to $31-39 million. Plan C buys none of the three pitchers and carries only the $6-8 million reserve. The internal staff is fully assigned later in this report. Its lower price comes with heavier workloads for pitchers who have not yet established reliable major-league performance.

ANALYSIS / 02

What improved, and what did not

The Rockies moved from 43-119 in 2025 to 58-104 in 2026. Runs scored rose from 597 to 752; runs allowed fell from 1,021 to 944. The resulting 232-run improvement in differential is substantial. It also begins from a minus-424 season, so the better team still finished at minus-192. The proper response is to identify the gains worth preserving while refusing to confuse recovery from an extreme low with competitive balance. [1]

Season	Record	Runs for / against	Margin	OPS / ERA
2024	61-101	682 / 929	-247	.704 / 5.47
2025	43-119	597 / 1021	-424	.679 / 5.97
2026	58-104	752 / 944	-192	.739 / 5.59

A 232-RUN IMPROVEMENT

2025 margin: -424 / 2026 margin: -192



The run margin improved by 232; the win total rose by 15.

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

The offensive change was larger than the run-prevention change: 155 additional runs against 77 fewer allowed. Team OPS improved from .679 to .739. Yet the pitching staff's 5.59 ERA and the volume of runs conceded kept even a more productive lineup under constant pressure. A meaningful next step must reduce the number of games in which the offense is asked to score six or seven merely to stay involved.

Colorado went 17-25 in one-run games and 3-7 in extra innings, counted from 162 unique official regular-season finals. Better late-game execution would help. It would not erase the much larger problem shown by the full-season run margin. Using the simple squared-run formula, 752 runs scored and 944 allowed correspond to roughly 63 wins over 162 games. That descriptive calculation suggests some room above 58 without establishing an 80-win roster. [2]

The offseason should therefore be judged by specific improvements: fewer free baserunners, fewer emergency pitching assignments, steadier middle-infield defense and more evidence about the young hitters. A larger win total would be welcome. It should follow from those changes rather than stand in for an explanation of how the roster gets better.

ANALYSIS / 03

Coors explains part of the problem

The home-road split gives the report an essential boundary. Colorado produced a .774 OPS and 406 runs at home, compared with a .704 OPS and 346 runs away. Those are actual outcomes in different environments and against different schedules. The gap is useful evidence, but it is not a precise estimate of the park's causal effect on any individual hitter. [1,5]

2026 split	Record	Runs for / against	Batting OPS	Pitching ERA
Home	32-49	406 / 504	.774	5.83
Road	26-55	346 / 440	.704	5.33

The pitching contrast is more revealing than an all-purpose appeal to altitude. The Rockies allowed 504 runs at home and 440 on the road. Their road ERA was 5.33. Opponents posted an .830 OPS away from Coors, and Colorado pitchers walked 280 batters in 686.2 road innings. The club needs better pitching even before debating how much extra difficulty its home park creates.

Buying a pitcher solely because he is described as a ground-ball fit would be too simple. Contact quality, strike throwing, workload, defense and price all matter. The expected-statistics tables provide another lens on the same players, but xERA and xwOBA are not complete park-adjusted forecasts of what a player will do in Denver. Neither a road split nor an expected number should be presented as the player's one true ability.

That distinction affects the spending recommendation. The club should pay for a defined, affordable job, then test whether the pitcher can execute it in Colorado. It should not pay a premium for an unverified promise that a particular repertoire defeats Coors. The preferred pitchers have limitations that remain visible in their full-season records.

ANALYSIS / 04

The roster after the transactions

Both fresh official roster surfaces contain 36 names. Colorado returned Rule 5 selection RJ Petit to Detroit on November 3; the individual transaction record also shows his assignment to Toledo. He is outside the retained Colorado roster and receives no principal innings. The team update confirms Shook, Castellano and Stevens became free agents. [3,4,11]

The larger departures are clear. Kyle Freeland, Tomoyuki Sugano, Jose Quintana and Romano elected free agency. Michael Lorenzen was released during the season and is not a retained starter. Antonio Senzatela was traded to Milwaukee and later became a free agent. Victor Vodnik went to Miami, Seth Halvorsen to the Dodgers and Brenton Doyle to the White Sox. Their Colorado statistics explain the completed season; they do not belong in a retained 2027 roster. [4]

Tyler Freeman's free agency removes another former contributor. Edouard Julien and Blake Adams were outrighted and are treated as organizational depth, subject to subsequent status changes. Neither receives an automatic major-league job. Pierson Ohl was claimed by the Mets. A familiar name on an older depth chart is not enough to restore any of these players to Colorado's plan.

The proposed outside signings, Brooks selection and eventual Condon promotion each need actual roster capacity. Their moves would not necessarily occur on the same day. No player is silently waived to make the arithmetic fit. The report's season-long allocations describe a sequence of opportunities, not an oversized active roster that could legally appear in one game.

ANALYSIS / 05

The offense that earned another look

Rumfield's 631 plate appearances, .843 OPS and 72 walks give Colorado a substantial first-base sample to build around. Goodman followed a .843 OPS in 2025 with .839 and 41 home runs in 2026. Karros improved from .585 in a short 2025 trial to .761 across 475 plate appearances. Carrigg produced an .818 OPS in 372 plate appearances. These are different sizes and types of evidence, but together they justify patience with the core of the lineup. [5]

Player / MLB ID	COL PA	AVG / OBP / SLG	HR	BB / K
TJ Rumfield / 681198	631	.300 / .390 / .453	16	72 / 86
Jake McCarthy / 664983	596	.291 / .334 / .475	15	30 / 95
Hunter Goodman / 696100	574	.245 / .310 / .529	41	46 / 175
Ezequiel Tovar / 678662	506	.219 / .264 / .353	13	29 / 129
Willi Castro / 650489	477	.260 / .331 / .417	15	41 / 129
Kyle Karros / 691720	475	.253 / .347 / .414	13	54 / 100
Troy Johnston / 687859	449	.277 / .348 / .393	4	37 / 83
Mickey Moniak / 666160	436	.238 / .278 / .480	23	22 / 120
Cole Carrigg / 694249	372	.279 / .341 / .477	12	28 / 89
Tyler Freeman / 671289	288	.247 / .317 / .314	3	11 / 34
Edouard Julien / 666397	276	.208 / .322 / .292	3	39 / 71
Brett Sullivan / 664954	237	.225 / .268 / .390	7	13 / 40
Jordan Beck / 687597	180	.200 / .261 / .291	1	14 / 57
Connor Norby / 681393	150	.302 / .387 / .457	3	16 / 38
Adael Amador / 691182	95	.277 / .362 / .482	4	10 / 12
Braxton Fulford / 690924	85	.176 / .259 / .270	1	8 / 34
Zac Veen / 691728	79	.232 / .312 / .435	3	7 / 31
Sterlin Thompson / 694514	77	.232 / .312 / .377	2	5 / 21

McCarthy's .809 OPS was a sharp rebound from .592 in 2025. His 15 home runs and 95 strikeouts in 596 plate appearances gave the lineup a different shape from its higher-strikeout corner options. The plan retains him as both an outfield regular and the first alternative in center. His role is valuable even if the offensive peak proves difficult to repeat.

Tovar is the central unresolved incumbent. His OPS has fallen from .764 to .694 to .617 over three seasons, while his 2026 line included 129 strikeouts and 29 walks. A long-term contract makes development especially important, but does not itself establish the answer. The plan preserves 550 PA and 132 shortstop starts, with actual alternatives if the bat remains a problem.

Norby's .844 OPS in 150 Colorado plate appearances should not obscure a .719 full MLB season across 383 PA. The acquired player deserves a fair opportunity at second, third and DH, but the larger sample argues against immediately handing him the entire second-base job. Julien's .614 Colorado OPS and subsequent outright further change the competition. The recommendation is based on the roster now available, not the lineup as it looked in April.

ANALYSIS / 06

Contact quality challenges the headline numbers

Several of the Rockies' best-looking batting lines outran their expected production. Rumfield's .373 wOBA exceeded a .333 xwOBA. McCarthy was at .349 and .321; Goodman at .355 and .321; Carrigg at .352 and .316. The gaps do not make the actual hits imaginary. They make a straight-line assumption that every hitter repeats his 2026 output less convincing. [6]

Full MLB season	wOBA	xwOBA	SLG / xSLG
TJ Rumfield	0.373	0.333	0.453 / 0.386
Jake McCarthy	0.349	0.321	0.475 / 0.410
Hunter Goodman	0.355	0.321	0.529 / 0.456
Ezequiel Tovar	0.270	0.281	0.353 / 0.371
Willi Castro	0.330	0.309	0.417 / 0.390
Kyle Karros	0.336	0.334	0.414 / 0.402
Troy Johnston	0.329	0.323	0.393 / 0.375
Mickey Moniak	0.322	0.279	0.480 / 0.392
Cole Carrigg	0.352	0.316	0.477 / 0.407
Tyler Freeman	0.289	0.309	0.314 / 0.353
Edouard Julien	0.287	0.338	0.292 / 0.401
Brett Sullivan	0.285	0.281	0.390 / 0.354
Jordan Beck	0.248	0.253	0.291 / 0.293
Connor Norby	0.323	0.310	0.377 / 0.367
Adael Amador	0.365	0.274	0.482 / 0.311
Braxton Fulford	0.242	0.209	0.270 / 0.226
Zac Veen	0.327	0.275	0.435 / 0.338

Full MLB season	wOBA	xwOBA	SLG / xSLG
Sterlin Thompson	0.308	0.295	0.377 / 0.357

Karros provides a useful counterpoint: .336 wOBA and .334 xwOBA are much closer. His 54 walks and 100 strikeouts also support a more complete offensive discussion than a home-run total alone. That is why the plan preserves a large third-base share rather than turning him into the expendable part of a generic veteran upgrade.

Moniak's .322 wOBA and .279 xwOBA create a more pronounced warning. Amador's .365 and .274 came in only 95 PA; Veen's .327 and .275 in 79. Those small samples cannot settle their futures. They can prevent the report from assigning a full season of the most flattering number to each player and then adding all the improvements together.

The young hitter with a quieter major-league line may still have a better development case than a teammate with a brief hot stretch. This is where the minor-league record, defensive role and plate discipline belong beside the expected metrics. The final recommendation preserves competition while putting limits on how much unproven production the financial plan needs.

ANALYSIS / 07

Three-year evidence and platoon use

Goodman's consecutive productive full seasons provide more support than a single late-season burst. Tovar's three-year decline requires a different response. McCarthy's rebound follows a poor year; Beck's .552 in 180 PA follows .733 in 588. Those histories argue for individualized decisions. One universal instruction to play the young players more would ignore both the different evidence and the limited number of jobs. [5]

Hitter	2024 MLB PA / OPS	2025 MLB PA / OPS	2026 MLB PA / OPS
TJ Rumfield	No MLB season	No MLB season	631 / .843
Jake McCarthy	495 / .749	222 / .592	596 / .809
Hunter Goodman	224 / .645	579 / .843	574 / .839
Ezequiel Tovar	695 / .764	390 / .694	506 / .617
Willi Castro	635 / .716	454 / .679	477 / .748
Kyle Karros	No MLB season	156 / .585	475 / .761
Troy Johnston	No MLB season	121 / .751	449 / .741
Mickey Moniak	418 / .646	461 / .824	436 / .758
Cole Carrigg	No MLB season	No MLB season	372 / .818
Jordan Beck	184 / .521	588 / .733	180 / .552
Connor Norby	194 / .732	337 / .689	383 / .719
Adael Amador	36 / .394	128 / .521	95 / .844
Zac Veen	No MLB season	37 / .424	79 / .747

Hitter	2024 MLB PA / OPS	2025 MLB PA / OPS	2026 MLB PA / OPS
Sterlin Thompson	No MLB season	No MLB season	77 / .689

Moniak is the clearest platoon candidate among the regulars. He produced an .807 OPS against right-handers and .573 against left-handers in 2026. His proposed 475 PA and 105 right-field starts leave room for right-handed alternatives and rest. That use is compatible with the two-year extension; the contract need not turn him into an automatic starter against every opponent. [5,12,13]

Batter / full MLB season	LHP PA / OPS	RHP PA / OPS
TJ Rumfield	197 / .775	434 / .875
Hunter Goodman	189 / .848	385 / .835
Ezequiel Tovar	169 / .593	337 / .628
Mickey Moniak	91 / .573	345 / .807
Cole Carrigg	156 / .757	216 / .863
Connor Norby	136 / .746	247 / .704
Adael Amador	37 / .780	58 / .882
Jordan Beck	97 / .760	83 / .313
Zac Veen	11 / .222	68 / .821
Sterlin Thompson	15 / .553	62 / .723

Goodman's .848 OPS against left-handers and .835 against right-handers support a broad offensive role. Rumfield's .775 against lefties was below his .875 against righties, but still argues against an automatic full platoon. Norby's full-season split, .746 against lefties and .704 against righties, is more moderate than the Colorado-only slice suggests. It offers a reason to consider matchups, not proof that he solves every left-handed opponent.

Tovar struggled against both sides. Splitting his work by pitcher handedness alone would miss the larger issue. Amador's encouraging platoon numbers are drawn from fewer than 100 total PA. He should receive the opportunity to establish a repeatable approach, with the review focused on swing decisions and contact quality rather than treating those tiny split samples as permanent strengths.

ANALYSIS / 08

Defense needs defined jobs

The Rockies should preserve Tovar at shortstop initially, while acknowledging the trend in range results. His Outs Above Average moved from plus-15 in 2024 to plus-3 in 2025 and minus-1 in 2026. That is a meaningful loss of the margin that once supported a weak offensive night. It does not establish why the change occurred, and the report makes no diagnosis from the statistic. [7]

Fielder	2024 OAA	2025 OAA	2026 OAA	2026 opportunities
Ezequiel Tovar	+15	+3	-1	490
Kyle Karros	No row	+4	+1	394
Adael Amador	+0	-3	+0	59
Willi Castro	+0	-9	-6	406
Connor Norby	-6	-4	-3	235
Jake McCarthy	+5	+3	+1	393
Cole Carrigg	No row	No row	-2	307
Mickey Moniak	+1	-8	+0	185
Jordan Beck	-2	-2	-2	107
Zac Veen	No row	+0	-4	52
Sterlin Thompson	No row	No row	+0	24
TJ Rumfield	No row	No row	+2	392

Karros' plus-1 over 394 opportunities in 2026 follows plus-4 in a smaller sample. Rumfield was plus-2 at first. Those are reasons to retain their jobs. Castro's minus-9 and minus-6 in the last two seasons, and Norby's three negative seasons, make a large defensive role for either a choice that needs scrutiny. Utility experience is not the same as above-average range at every listed position.

McCarthy has three positive OAA seasons, plus-5, plus-3 and plus-1. Carrigg's minus-2 in his first MLB season is less reassuring, but his actual center-field work gives the club a base for development. Veen's minus-4 came in only 52 opportunities. That sample is too small for a fixed long-term verdict, yet large enough to require a real defensive review before awarding everyday outfield work.

Fielder	2026 COL position	Starts / innings
Cole Carrigg	RF	0 / 5.0
Willi Castro	1B	6 / 51.1
Willi Castro	LF	2 / 25.0
Connor Norby	1B	2 / 25.0
Sterlin Thompson	RF	2 / 24.0
Willi Castro	2B	51 / 439.1
Adael Amador	2B	16 / 145.0
Ezequiel Tovar	SS	133 / 1158.2
Cole Carrigg	CF	71 / 634.2
Cole Carrigg	SS	12 / 103.0
Connor Norby	2B	23 / 207.0
Kyle Karros	3B	116 / 1027.2
Willi Castro	3B	36 / 305.0
Willi Castro	SS	15 / 138.0
Connor Norby	3B	7 / 60.0
Sterlin Thompson	LF	7 / 62.0
Willi Castro	CF	0 / 2.0

The preferred alignment gives Amador 100 starts at second and Karros 125 at third. Castro supplies 50 at second and 15 at third. Norby receives smaller shares there, with DH work preserving his offensive opportunity. Carrigg receives 110 starts in center and 20 at short; McCarthy provides 45 center-field starts. These are defined roles, supported by actual positional experience, rather than an assumption that every flexible player can be moved anywhere without cost.

ANALYSIS / 09

Keep Goodman's bat and manage the catching load

Goodman's 41 home runs create an unusual offensive advantage at catcher, but the club still needs to decide how many innings he should catch. He worked 816.1 innings behind the plate. The full-season framing measure was about minus-0.77 runs and the broader catching value about plus-0.70. The latter includes components beyond receiving. It should not be described as the same measure twice. [5,8,9]

Catcher	2026 COL catching IP	Full MLB framing	Full MLB catching value
Hunter Goodman	816.1	-0.77	+0.70
Brett Sullivan	506.2	-4.30	-3.59
Braxton Fulford	98.2	-1.72	Unknown

Brett Sullivan caught 506.2 innings, with approximately minus-4.30 framing runs and minus-3.59 total catching runs. Fulford's framing estimate was minus-1.72 in a much smaller catching sample; a total catching-value row was not available in the saved extract. The absence remains unknown. None of these figures justifies calling the reserve catching a solved strength.

The plan gives Goodman 115 catching starts and 25 at DH, with Sullivan taking 30 behind the plate and Fulford 17. That protects a path to 600 PA without requiring Goodman to catch every day he hits. The reserves remain important even with modest offensive projections, because a catching injury cannot be replaced by simply moving an outfielder into the lineup.

Cole Messina stays on a development track after a .693 OPS in 364 Double-A PA. He does not receive invented major-league production to make the catching future look deeper. If Goodman is unavailable, the explicit fallback expands Sullivan and Fulford, with additional DH work for Condon. It is a materially weaker offensive outcome, which is why catching health belongs among the report's largest risks.

ANALYSIS / 10

The starting rotation needs purchased coverage

Colorado's starters worked 757.2 innings with a 6.28 ERA. They allowed 146 home runs, struck out 555 and walked 261. The bullpen then supplied another 664 innings. Better starters would help both by preventing runs and by reducing how often the club has to seek fresh relief coverage. The preferred plan raises the starting allocation to 830 innings, a meaningful increase that still leaves a substantial bullpen burden. [1,5]

Pitcher / MLB ID	GS / COL IP	ERA / full MLB xERA	K / BB / HR	Planning treatment
Ryan Feltner / 663372	22 / 123.1	5.40 / 4.89	92 / 53 / 20	26 starts / 135 IP
Gabriel Hughes / 687312	13 / 64.0	6.33 / 3.92	56 / 24 / 7	22 / 110; command and workload
Tanner Gordon / 685299	12 / 103.2	6.68 / 5.16	85 / 24 / 21	20 / 105; reduce damage
Mason Adams / 690279	6 / 29.0	4.03 / 5.09	31 / 12 / 6	12 / 60; developmental role
Sean Sullivan / 807743	5 / 22.1	8.87 / 4.82	16 / 11 / 5	8 / 40 after health review
Blas Castaño / 680604	0 / 27.1	3.62 / 5.96	21 / 9 / 4	4 / 20 plus 55 relief IP
Chase Dollander / 801403	3 / 44.0	3.89 / 3.98	47 / 18 / 6	Zero principal IP; rehabilitation
Tomoyuki Sugano / 608372	29 / 154.1	5.37 / 6.35	96 / 36 / 33	Free agent; no retained innings
Kyle Freeland / 607536	26 / 135.1	6.65 / 5.54	108 / 29 / 29	Free agent; no retained innings
Michael Lorenzen / 547179	25 / 115.2	7.08 / 6.15	82 / 49 / 19	Released; no retained innings
Jose Quintana / 500779	11 / 48.0	5.44 / 5.58	25 / 20 / 10	Free agent; no retained innings

Feltner's 123.1 innings and 5.40 ERA are a useful workload foundation, but 53 walks and 20 home runs constrain the upside. His 4.89 xERA is more favorable without being an assurance of quality. The plan asks for 26 starts and 135 innings, a modest workload increase whose usefulness depends on better execution.

Hughes is a more interesting development wager. His 6.33 ERA in 64 innings is poor, but the 3.92 xERA and 56 strikeouts against 24 walks offer a different reading of the contact. He receives 22 starts and 110 innings. That expansion must be reviewed against his complete workload and readiness; the lower expected figure is not credited as an automatic reduction in future runs.

Gordon's 103.2 innings came with a 6.68 ERA, 21 home runs and a 5.16 xERA. He retains 20 starts and 105 innings because the club needs usable internal volume, not because the results demand a large role. Mason Adams receives 12 starts and 60 innings. His 29-inning Colorado sample included a 4.03 ERA but six home runs and a 5.09 xERA, another reason to resist reading a small ERA as a finished answer.

Sean Sullivan receives eight starts and 40 innings after health and workload review. His 22.1 MLB innings and 61 Triple-A innings do not justify a large immediate assignment. Castaño's four starting assignments and 20 innings are depth coverage alongside 55 relief innings, not a claim that he already established himself as a starter. Brooks supplies the remaining developmental starting share after an actual roster selection.

ANALYSIS / 11

Injured pitchers cannot be the missing budget line

Dollander produced 44 innings before his elbow-related injured-list sequence. Brown and Herrera also carry major interrupted-season concerns. Their November administrative activations do not establish when they can pitch effectively. The principal plan assigns none of them innings. Any successful return would allow the club to reconsider other workloads rather than supply production it had already spent in the forecast. [4,5]

Petit's November 3 return to Detroit resolves his organizational status. Earlier differences in injury descriptions do not establish a recovery date. No Petit innings are assigned to Colorado, and his administrative activation is not presented as medical clearance. [3,4,11]

Soroka's proposed purchase also needs caution. His individual transactions show an August right-arm inflammation stint followed by a September activation. A one-year offer and a 125-inning assignment acknowledge that history. The plan should not become more aggressive simply because several other options also carry medical questions.

Bryant's absence is treated consistently on the other side of the roster. His 2026 transaction record identifies the back condition, and there is no MLB batting sample for the season. Colorado still owes the signed allocation. A healthier spring would justify reevaluation, but neither a zero-salary assumption nor 500 penciled-in PA belongs in the principal plan. This separation between financial obligation and usable production is central to the entire review.

ANALYSIS / 12

Relief command before bullpen titles

Bernardino is the clearest internal control anchor: 64 innings, 49 strikeouts, 15 walks and a 2.81 ERA. The 3.73 xERA is a useful caution, but the walk record still distinguishes him from several teammates. The plan assigns 70 relief innings without assuming he alone can stabilize every important inning. [5,6]

Pitcher	COL IP	ERA / full MLB xERA	K / BB	Treatment
Brennan Bernardino	64.0	2.81 / 3.73	49 / 15	70 IP; control anchor
Jaden Hill	39.2	5.22 / 3.95	40 / 23	60 IP; walk reduction
Juan Mejia	70.0	5.27 / 4.73	66 / 40	70 IP; walks constrain leverage
Jimmy Herget	53.2	5.70 / 4.51	47 / 26	55 IP; no automatic closer
Zach Agnos	91.0	5.93 / 5.30	58 / 35	90 IP; bulk workload

Pitcher	COL IP	ERA / full MLB xERA	K / BB	Treatment
Mark Manfredi	17.2	3.06 / 4.51	16 / 9	55 IP; minor/MLB transition
Hayden Harris	0	No sample / No row	0 / 0	40 IP; current waiver acquisition
Jeff Criswell	4.0	4.50 / 9.17	3 / 3	30 IP after shoulder review
Blas Castaño	27.1	3.62 / 5.96	21 / 9	55 relief; 75 combined IP
Nick Frasso	21.2	5.82 / 4.38	22 / 7	35 relief IP; no starting assumption
Victor Vodnik	36.0	5.25 / 4.12	26 / 19	Traded to Miami; zero retained IP
Seth Halvorsen	19.0	4.74 / 6.27	17 / 15	Traded to Dodgers; zero retained IP
Antonio Senzatela	52.1	3.61 / 4.06	46 / 17	Traded, then free agent; zero retained IP

Mejia walked 40 in 70 innings. Hill walked 23 in 39.2. Herget walked 26 in 53.2. Those free baserunners matter in any park, and become especially costly when the next ball in play can find a large outfield gap. The proposed workloads keep these pitchers involved, but leverage should follow demonstrated execution rather than an offseason declaration that a particular inning belongs to someone.

Agnos' 91 innings provide a bulk precedent for a 90-inning relief assignment. His 5.93 ERA and 5.30 xERA mean that volume was not necessarily good volume. The club needs him to reduce damage as well as absorb work. Manfredi, Harris, Criswell, Castaño and Frasso fill smaller jobs, with readiness and performance conditions attached. Their presence on the list is coverage, not evidence that all will meet the proposed standard.

The former relief group must also be removed correctly. Vodnik, Halvorsen and Senzatela cannot be carried forward merely because their Colorado innings were useful. Romano would be a new agreement after free agency. His local sample was 25.2 innings with a 4.21 ERA, while his full MLB season was 33.2 innings with a 5.61 ERA. The preferred offer depends on the larger record and the next medical review, not nostalgia for a short stretch.

ANALYSIS / 13

The farm should supply answers, not decoration

Condon's 598 Triple-A PA, .904 OPS, 27 home runs, 79 walks and 150 strikeouts provide a substantial basis for a major-league opportunity. The plan reserves 250 PA and specific first-base and DH starts after selection. That is enough work to test him while allowing timing to depend on actual readiness. It does not require the club to move Rumfield out of a productive first-base role before Condon earns the next step. [16]

Player / MLB ID	2026 level and sample	Readiness decision
Charlie Condon / 809707	AAA: 598 PA, .904 OPS, 27 HR; 79 BB / 150 K	250 PA after selection; no guaranteed immediate promotion
Sterlin Thompson / 694514	AAA: 408 PA, 1.005 OPS, 14 HR; 77 BB / 60 K	300 PA with specific RF/DH role

Player / MLB ID	2026 level and sample	Readiness decision
Zac Veen / 691728	AAA: 445 PA, 1.037 OPS, 24 HR; 48 BB / 91 K	275 PA; defensive review
Adael Amador / 691182	AAA: 434 PA, .795 OPS, 11 HR; 61 BB / 48 K	425 PA; 100 second-base starts
Jordan Beck / 687597	AAA: 114 PA, .883 OPS, 7 HR; 8 BB / 26 K	225 PA; competition, not automatic job
Braxton Fulford / 690924	AAA: 201 PA, .831 OPS, 8 HR; 23 BB / 52 K	75 PA; catching reserve
Jake Brooks / 694860	AAA: 80.1 IP, 4.15 ERA; 48 K / 16 BB	16 starts / 80 IP after selection
Jake Brooks / 694860	AA: 78.1 IP, 4.71 ERA; 66 K / 16 BB	Combined AA/AAA158.2 IP supports workload discussion
Jack Mahoney / 694968	AAA: 33.1 IP, 6.21 ERA; 23 K / 18 BB	Reserve only; AAA control gap
Stu Flesland III / 687317	AA: 86.0 IP, 1.88 ERA; 70 K / 28 BB	Reserve only; lower-level context
Sean Sullivan / 807743	AAA: 61.0 IP, 5.31 ERA; 59 K / 22 BB	8 starts / 40 IP; health check
Blake Adams / 687060	AAA: 61.1 IP, 7.48 ERA; 47 K / 23 BB	Outrighted relief depth; not eight invented starts
Jared Thomas / 703606	AA: 124 PA, .746 OPS, 4 HR; 8 BB / 46 K	No principal MLB quota
Cole Messina / 701783	AA: 364 PA, .693 OPS, 8 HR; 42 BB / 99 K	No principal MLB quota
Ethan Holliday / 815787	A: 152 PA, .952 OPS, 9 HR; 23 BB / 43 K	Recovery/development; no 2027 MLB quota

Thompson's 408 Triple-A PA included a 1.005 OPS, 77 walks and 60 strikeouts. Veen had a 1.037 OPS and 24 home runs in 445 PA. Those are strong level-specific results. Albuquerque context, the quality of MLB pitching and defensive readiness all remain part of the translation. The preferred plan creates opportunities for both without assigning either an instant major-league star's production.

Amador's 61 walks against 48 strikeouts in 434 Triple-A PA are particularly relevant to a lineup that needs more repeatable offensive approaches. His .795 OPS there is less dramatic than some teammates' numbers, but the contact and walk balance support a real second-base trial. Beck's 114 Triple-A PA are a smaller sample. His seven home runs matter, yet the major-league regression still warrants competition rather than a protected everyday job.

Brooks worked 78.1 innings at Double-A and 80.1 at Triple-A, with 32 walks across the two stops. The combined 158.2 innings make a proposed 80 MLB innings more grounded than assigning a large starting role to a reliever with two Triple-A starts. His 48 strikeouts in the higher-level sample also warn that a successful transition cannot be assumed. The plan gives him work to earn after selection, with a named fallback if he does not.

Mahoney's 1.99 Double-A ERA rose to 6.21 at Triple-A; Flesland's 1.88 Double-A ERA is encouraging but belongs to that level. Neither is credited with principal MLB innings. Jared Thomas, Messina and Ethan Holliday remain developmental options, with Holliday's recovery reviewed separately. A strong prospect list is most useful when it clarifies who is near a defined job and who still needs time.

ANALYSIS / 14

The acquisition choices

Fedde's 141 innings, 3.83 ERA, 99 strikeouts and 52 walks make him a credible short-term volume candidate. His 4.79 xERA is the strongest argument against treating him as a reliable run-prevention upgrade. At $7-9 million for one year, the case is for coverage with a firm limit on commitment. The proposed 155 innings exceed his 2026 total by 14 and require a fresh workload assessment. [5,6,19]

Candidate / MLB ID	Full 2026 MLB evidence	S&S ceiling / decision
Erick Fedde / 607200	141.0 IP, 3.83 ERA, 4.79 xERA; 99 K / 52 BB	A: 1 year / $7-9M; 30 starts / 155 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
Jordan Romano / 605447	33.2 IP, 5.61 ERA, 3.63 xERA; 39 K / 19 BB	A/B: 1 year / $4-6M; 50 relief IP; medical/command gate
Nick Martinez / 607259	180.0 IP, 3.10 ERA, 3.98 xERA; 109 K / 26 BB	B: 2 years / $26-30M; 30 starts / 155 IP instead of Fedde
Taylor Clarke / 664199	73.0 IP, 2.96 ERA, 4.42 xERA; 45 K / 14 BB	Alternative: 1 year / $4-6M; 50 IP instead of Romano
Raisel Iglesias / 628452	60.0 IP, 2.55 ERA, 3.50 xERA; 64 K / 17 BB	Alternative: 1 year / $10-12M; costs more than preferred relief slot
Patrick Corbin / 571578	80.0 IP, 5.51 ERA, 5.51 xERA; 63 K / 25 BB	5.51 ERA/xERA and injury record; no principal offer
Adrian Houser / 605288	109.2 IP, 4.02 ERA, 4.95 xERA; 75 K / 34 BB	Contracted Giant; no assumed availability or free-agent price
Kyle Freeland / 607536	135.1 IP, 6.65 ERA, 5.54 xERA; 108 K / 29 BB	Free agent; no automatic $17M option carryover
Tomoyuki Sugano / 608372	154.1 IP, 5.37 ERA, 6.35 xERA; 96 K / 36 BB	Free agent; 33 HR allowed in154.1 IP; no main purchase

Soroka offers more strikeouts relative to walks: 114 and 29 in 116 innings, with a 3.41 ERA and 4.12 xERA. He receives a slightly larger annual ceiling despite a smaller proposed workload because that balance offers something different from the internal staff. The right-arm history prevents a long guaranteed assignment in this recommendation. If the medical review does not support the job, the club should use the alternative plan rather than quietly retain his projected innings.

Romano is the higher-variance relief choice. His 39 strikeouts in 33.2 innings address a staff that too often depends on contact, and the 3.63 xERA is better than his actual 5.61. His 19 walks are a serious objection. A one-year, $4-6 million limit and a 50-inning job make this a bounded rebound attempt. It is not a claim that expected ERA erases command problems or that returning to Colorado guarantees improvement.

Clarke is the distinct alternative at the same $4-6 million ceiling. His 14 walks in 73 innings offer better control, but 45 strikeouts and a 4.42 xERA temper a 2.96 ERA. Substituting him for Romano buys a different risk profile, with the same 50-inning job and unchanged budget. Iglesias is another alternative at $10-12 million,

but that would add $6 million at each end of the annual range. The current roster does not provide a strong enough reason to make that the preferred expense.

Martinez is the more expensive rotation alternative. His 180 innings, 26 walks and 3.98 xERA provide a stronger workload-and-control case than Fedde's record. Two years and $26-30 million buy the same proposed 30-start, 155-inning role. Houser is contracted to San Francisco and is not priced as a free agent. Freeland, Sugano and Corbin remain separately evaluated alternatives rather than automatic purchases based on familiarity or handedness.

ANALYSIS / 15

Compare the same players across clubs

Fedde's $7-9 million ceiling is below the $8-10 million retention alternative in our private White Sox preparation. Chicago's modeled role was 165 innings; Colorado's is 155. The more important difference is marginal value: a 58-win club should be cautious about paying additional guaranteed money for a pitcher whose expected performance is substantially less favorable than his ERA. This is a negotiating limit tied to the job, not a prediction that Fedde will accept a Denver discount. [21]

Soroka's $8-10 million one-year range is consistent with Cleveland, Arizona and Washington preparation. Colorado assigns 24 starts and 125 innings, the same workload used for Washington and slightly below Arizona's 130 innings. The displaced work belongs to Gordon, Hughes, Mason Adams, Brooks and Sullivan through the alternatives table. None of those opportunities is costless. The case for a veteran is to prevent the entire development group from carrying the full schedule immediately.

Martinez's $13-15 million annual ceiling also matches several earlier dossiers. Here he is an alternative to Fedde, with 155 innings rather than Washington's 165. The shared price range does not establish that multiple clubs can sign him, or that a smaller inning assignment earns a lower market price. His availability, actual interest and competing offers remain external constraints.

Clarke's repeated use as a control-oriented alternative is explicit. St. Louis and the Cubs were modeled with larger 60-inning jobs at the same $4-6 million price. Colorado's alternative is 50 innings, with extra internal work preserved. Romano is preferred here for a higher-strikeout rebound profile at a short commitment, not to satisfy a novelty quota. The countercase for Clarke is strong enough that the club should compare actual medical and contract information before deciding.

All of the preferred additions are free-agent proposals. No outgoing prospect package is hidden in the financial totals, and no contracted player is assumed obtainable for cash alone. A trade for Houser or another controlled pitcher would require a separate seller decision, acquisition price and displaced-work analysis. The fully specified no-acquisition staff tests whether the club can tolerate losing every negotiation.

ANALYSIS / 16

Contracts that stay in the budget

The four signed 2027 allocations total approximately $49.764 million: Bryant at $27 million, Tovar at $8.214 million, Castro at $7.3 million and Moniak at $7.25 million. These are dated RosterResource allocations. They are not a reconstructed cash ledger or competitive-balance-tax calculation. Tovar's displayed allocation, for example, should not be casually relabeled as his base salary. [10]

Player / MLB ID	2027 allocation	Basis
Kris Bryant / 592178	$27.000M	Guaranteed despite uncertain availability; through2028
Ezequiel Tovar / 678662	$8.214M	RosterResource allocation; not simply base cash
Willi Castro / 650489	$7.300M	Signed through2027
Mickey Moniak / 666160	$7.250M	2027 allocation; $9M in2028
TOTAL	$49.764M	Allocation, not tax AAV or cash schedule

Moniak's extension covers 2027 and 2028, with a reported $16.25 million total. The 2027 and 2028 allocations are $7.25 million and $9 million. That commitment is already part of the roster's financial baseline; it is not counted again as an offseason addition. His role can still be shaped by the platoon evidence and the performance of the young outfielders. [10,12,13]

Freeland's old $17 million 2027 player option required 170 innings in 2026. He threw 135.1 and elected free agency. The option is not carried into this budget. Any return would be a new agreement at a newly justified price. Lorenzen's former $9 million club option is likewise not a retained player salary after his release and later free agency. The source's $250,000 buyout allocation is held as a reserve pending liability and cash-timing reconciliation. [4,10,14,15]

The treatment of Bryant is deliberately strict. No assumed insurance recovery, settlement, retirement savings or release relief reduces the $27 million allocation. Those would require actual information and terms. Assigning zero principal PA does not predict that he will never play again. It prevents uncertain future production from being used to justify other roster decisions today.

ANALYSIS / 17

Arbitration and the full roster pool

The six current arbitration estimates total $19.8 million: Goodman $6.2 million, McCarthy $4.6 million, Feltner $3.8 million, Herget $2.4 million, Bernardino $1.6 million and Beck $1.2 million. They are unsigned estimates, not completed contracts. The principal plan assumes no non-tender savings and no automatic agreement at a lower figure. [10,18]

Player	Estimate, $M	Treatment
Jimmy Herget	2.40	Unsigned; no non-tender savings assumed
Jake McCarthy	4.60	Unsigned; no non-tender savings assumed
Ryan Feltner	3.80	Unsigned; no non-tender savings assumed
Brennan Bernardino	1.60	Unsigned; no non-tender savings assumed
Hunter Goodman	6.20	Unsigned; no non-tender savings assumed
Jordan Beck	1.20	Unsigned; no non-tender savings assumed
TOTAL	19.80	Six current-roster cases

Those six players do not all carry equal certainty. Goodman's bat and Bernardino's control give their proposed roles stronger support. Beck's poor major-league season and Herget's command create more difficult decisions. The relatively modest projected salaries make it reasonable to retain competition in this model, but that judgment should be revisited if an actual agreement, injury update or better alternative changes the comparison.

Component	Annual allocation	Definition
Four signed salaries	$49.764M	Bryant, Tovar, Castro, Moniak
Six arbitration estimates	$19.80M	No assumed discounts or automatic tenders
Lorenzen buyout reserve	$0.25M	Verify current liability and cash timing
Pre-arb, minors and callups	$16-20M	S&S roster pool, not a fixed new minimum
Existing-roster envelope	$85.81-89.81M	Excludes benefits, tax, and separately timed cash
RosterResource 2027 headline	$69.814286M	Signed allocations + arbitration + buyout; roster pool added
RosterResource 2026 estimate	$120.101775M	Historical estimate, not approved 2027 budget
Freeland $17M option	Not carried forward	170-IP trigger not met;135.1 IP and free agency
Bryant production assumption	0 PA; $27M retained	Medical uncertainty creates no automatic salary savings

The $69.814286 million headline combines signed allocations, the six arbitration estimates and the Lorenzen buyout provision. It does not fund the rest of the roster by itself. Adding a $16-20 million pool for pre-arbitration players, minor-league contracts and callups produces an existing-roster envelope of $85.814286-89.814286 million. The pool is a planning allowance, not a claim about a settled 2027 minimum salary or a final count of every paid roster day.

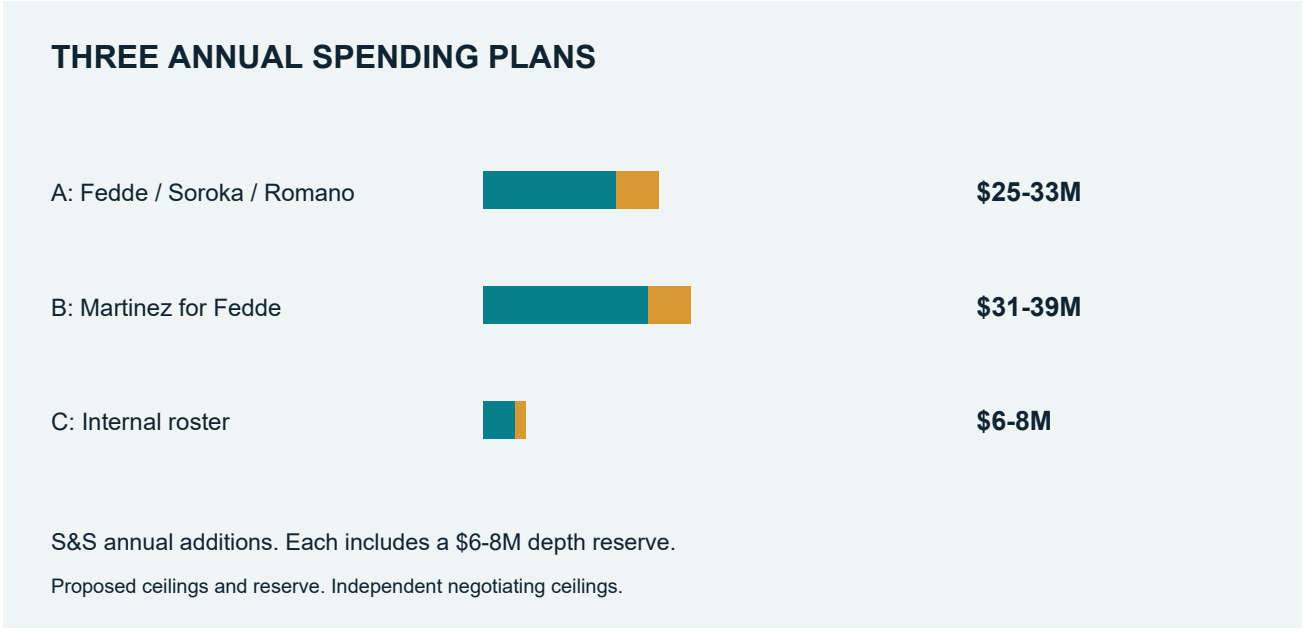
Benefits, tax calculations and separately timed cash obligations remain outside that player-allocation definition. The 2026 RosterResource estimate of approximately $120.102 million provides historical context, not authority to spend the same amount next season. An actual budget review must reconcile what is paid, when it is paid and what future labor rules apply. A plausible range is more useful than a falsely precise all-in payroll number.

ANALYSIS / 18

Three complete spending paths

Plan A's annual additions are $7-9 million for Fedde, $8-10 million for Soroka, $4-6 million for Romano and $6-8 million in reserve. The total is $25-33 million. Because all three offers are for one year, the proposed new commitment, including the reserve, is also $25-33 million. Combined with the existing roster, the annual allocation is approximately $110.81-122.81 million.

Plan	Annual additions	Total allocation	New commitment
A: Fedde / Soroka / Romano	$25-33M	$110.81-122.81M	$25-33M
B: Martinez replaces Fedde	$31-39M	$116.81-128.81M	$44-54M
C: Internal staff	$6-8M	$91.81-97.81M	$6-8M



Plan B replaces Fedde with Martinez at $13-15 million annually for two years. It keeps Soroka, Romano and the reserve. Annual additions rise to $31-39 million, and the total allocation to $116.81-128.81 million. The new commitment is $44-54 million because Martinez's second year remains payable beyond the first-season analysis. That extra obligation is the real price of buying his stronger workload-and-control record.

Plan C retains the $6-8 million reserve but signs none of the three preferred pitchers. The total allocation becomes $91.81-97.81 million. The roster does not receive their innings at a discount. Gordon, Hughes, Mason Adams, Brooks, Sullivan and Castaño take the starting work, while the internal relief group absorbs Romano's share. The next sections specify those assignments and their limits.

Substituting Clarke for Romano leaves Plan A's budget unchanged. Substituting Iglesias raises annual additions to $31-39 million and the total allocation to $116.81-128.81 million, but it remains a different plan from Martinez's two-year alternative. Identical first-year ranges do not imply identical commitments, workloads or risk. The club should compare the actual jobs purchased, not just the sum on the final line.

ANALYSIS / 19

Give the hitters enough work to learn

The position-player plan totals 6,200 PA. Goodman and Rumfield receive 600 each; Tovar and Carrigg 550; McCarthy and Karros 525; Moniak 475; Amador 425. Norby, Castro and Thompson receive 300 each, followed by defined smaller shares for Veen, Beck, Condon and the reserves. It is a season-long allocation that requires ordinary options, selections, rest and changes in form. [3,5,16]

Hitter	PA	Condition
Hunter Goodman	600	Performance, health and seasonal rotation
TJ Rumfield	600	Performance, health and seasonal rotation
Ezequiel Tovar	550	Performance, health and seasonal rotation
Jake McCarthy	525	Performance, health and seasonal rotation
Kyle Karros	525	Performance, health and seasonal rotation
Cole Carrigg	550	Performance, health and seasonal rotation
Adael Amador	425	Performance, health and seasonal rotation
Mickey Moniak	475	Performance, health and seasonal rotation
Connor Norby	300	Performance, health and seasonal rotation
Willi Castro	300	Performance, health and seasonal rotation
Sterlin Thompson	300	Performance, health and seasonal rotation
Zac Veen	275	Performance, health and seasonal rotation
Jordan Beck	225	Performance, health and seasonal rotation
Charlie Condon	250	Selection and readiness required
Brett Sullivan	125	Performance, health and seasonal rotation
Braxton Fulford	75	Performance, health and seasonal rotation
Ryan Ritter	50	Performance, health and seasonal rotation
Troy Johnston	50	Performance, health and seasonal rotation
TOTAL	6200	Not simultaneous active-roster places

Johnston's reduction from 449 Colorado PA to 50 is a real displacement. His .741 OPS and four home runs do not justify preserving a large corner/DH role ahead of Rumfield and the younger alternatives. Norby also receives 300 PA rather than a full season based on his strongest 150-PA segment. Castro's value is concentrated in coverage instead of another large everyday assignment with negative range results.

Pos.	162-start allocation	Condition
C	Goodman 115; Brett Sullivan 30; Fulford 17	Season plan; failure branches separate
1B	Rumfield 135; Johnston 10; Condon 17	Season plan; failure branches separate
2B	Amador 100; Castro 50; Norby 12	Season plan; failure branches separate
3B	Karros 125; Norby 22; Castro 15	Season plan; failure branches separate
SS	Tovar 132; Ritter 10; Carrigg 20	Season plan; failure branches separate
LF	McCarthy 85; Veen 45; Beck 32	Season plan; failure branches separate
CF	Carrigg 110; McCarthy 45; Beck 7	Season plan; failure branches separate
RF	Moniak 105; Thompson 35; Beck 12; Veen 10	Season plan; failure branches separate
DH	Goodman 25; Rumfield 12; Moniak 10; Thompson 35; Norby 35; Condon 40; Veen 5	Season plan; failure branches separate

The defensive-start plan assigns 162 starts at each of the nine lineup positions, including DH, and keeps every individual below 162 total starts. Rumfield's 147 combined first-base and DH starts are the largest allocation. Condon's 57 starts across first and DH show how he can get a meaningful trial without displacing every established hitter. Thompson's 70 starts across right field and DH give his strong Triple-A plate discipline a concrete route into the season.

Performance should change this distribution. If Amador cannot hold second, Castro and Norby take the work. If Carrigg cannot hold center, McCarthy moves across and Beck's opportunity expands, with Veen and Thompson covering the vacated left-field starts. Those changes should be made for observed performance and readiness, not because the original table has become a promise to a player.

ANALYSIS / 20

Account for all 1,440 innings

The main staff assigns 162 starts and 830 starter innings. Fedde and Soroka supply 54 starts and 280 innings. Feltner, Hughes and Gordon provide another 68 starts and 350 innings. Brooks, Mason Adams, Sullivan and Castaño fill 40 starts and 200 innings. That distribution leaves substantial developmental work while reducing the need to turn every temporary vacancy into a full-season role.

Pitcher	GS / IP	Condition
Erick Fedde	30 / 155	Proposed agreement and medical review
Michael Soroka	24 / 125	Proposed agreement and medical review
Ryan Feltner	26 / 135	Workload, health and performance
Gabriel Hughes	22 / 110	Workload, health and performance
Tanner Gordon	20 / 105	Workload, health and performance
Jake Brooks	16 / 80	Selection and readiness
Mason Adams	12 / 60	Workload, health and performance

Pitcher	GS / IP	Condition
Sean Sullivan	8 / 40	Workload, health and performance
Blas Castaño	4 / 20	Workload, health and performance
TOTAL	162 / 830	No principal IP from Dollander, Brown, Herrera or Petit

The relief group receives 610 innings, for 1,440 total. Romano takes 50; Bernardino and Mejia 70 each; Hill 60; Herget and Manfredi 55 each; Agnos 90; Harris 40; Criswell 30; Castaño 55; Frasso 35. Castaño's combined starting and relief assignment is 75 innings. Frasso is used only in relief in the principal plan; no large starter workload is inferred from his short 2026 Colorado sample.

Pitcher	IP	Condition
Jordan Romano	50	Proposed agreement and medical review
Brennan Bernardino	70	Workload, health and performance
Jaden Hill	60	Workload, health and performance
Juan Mejia	70	Workload, health and performance
Jimmy Herget	55	Workload, health and performance
Zach Agnos	90	Workload, health and performance
Mark Manfredi	55	Workload, health and performance
Hayden Harris	40	Workload, health and performance
Jeff Criswell	30	Workload, health and performance
Blas Castaño	55	75 combined starting/relief IP
Nick Frasso	35	Workload, health and performance
TOTAL	610	830 starter innings plus relief = 1,440

The 1,440-inning total is a planning convention for a full season, allowing for the way actual schedules produce shortened road losses and extra innings. Colorado's completed 2026 staff total was 1,421.2. The plan does not claim that exactly 1,440 will be needed or that every assigned inning is equally effective. It ensures the proposed roster has a complete workload account instead of leaving the difficult final 150 innings unnamed.

Several internal assignments remain demanding. Hughes' MLB share rises, Manfredi and Harris must translate more limited experience, and Agnos is asked to combine volume with better prevention. These risks are the reason to buy two starters. If actual readiness cannot support the assignments, the club needs a revised player-specific plan before treating the offseason as complete.

ANALYSIS / 21

What happens when the preferred plan fails

Replacing Fedde with Martinez is straightforward: 30 starts and 155 innings move to Martinez, with no second starter quietly retained in the same slot. The internal alternative is more demanding. Gordon adds eight starts and 40 innings, Hughes eight and 40, Mason Adams six and 30, Brooks four and 25, and Castaño four and 20. Castaño then sheds 20 relief innings, with Hill and Mejia taking ten each, preserving his 75-inning combined assignment.

Change from A	Removed workload	Named replacement
B: Martinez for Fedde	30 GS / 155 IP	Martinez30 /155; no second purchase
C: no Fedde	30 GS / 155 IP	Gordon+8/40; Hughes+8/40; Mason Adams+6/30; Brooks+4/25; Castaño+4/20
C: Castaño conversion	20 relief IP	Hill+10, Mejia+10; Castaño stays75 combined
C: no Soroka	24 GS /125 IP	Feltner+4/20; Sean Sullivan+8/45; Mason Adams+4/20; Brooks+8/40
C: no Romano	50 relief IP	Bernardino, Herget, Agnos, Hill, Harris+10 each
No Brooks	16 GS /80 IP	Gordon+6/30; Hughes+6/30; Mason Adams+4/20
No Sean Sullivan	8 GS /40 IP	Gordon+4/20; Mason Adams+4/20
No Criswell	30 relief IP	Manfredi+10; Harris+10; Frasso+10
No Condon	250 PA;17 1B/40 DH starts	Johnston+100PA/17 1B/5 DH; Thompson+100/25 DH; Norby+50/10 DH
No Goodman	600 PA;115 C/25 DH	Brett Sullivan+275PA/65 C; Fulford+225/50 C; Condon+100/25 DH
No Amador	425 PA;100 2B starts	Castro+225PA/60 2B; Norby+200/40 2B
No Carrigg	550 PA;110 CF/20 SS	McCarthy+200PA/50 CF; Beck+225/60 CF; Ritter+125/20 SS. Replace McCarthy50 LF with Veen30/Thompson20
Multiple failures	Combined recalculation	Branches are not additive; no anonymous production assigned to cash reserve

Without Soroka, Feltner adds four starts and 20 innings, Sullivan eight and 45, Mason Adams four and 20, and Brooks eight and 40. Under the combined no-acquisition rotation, Feltner reaches 155 innings, Hughes 150, Gordon 145, Brooks 145, Mason Adams 110, Sullivan 85 and Castaño 40 starting innings. Those totals still require a full workload review, particularly for pitchers coming from short major-league samples.

Without Romano, Bernardino, Herget, Agnos, Hill and Harris each add ten relief innings. Together with the Castaño conversion, the internal bullpen reaches 610. Agnos rises to 100 relief innings, Hill to 80 and Mejia to 80. This is a heavy burden on a group that already struggled. The arithmetic explains why Plan C costs less; it does not prove that the baseball consequences are acceptable.

The hitting branches are equally concrete. Without Condon, Johnston, Thompson and Norby replace his 250 PA and 57 starts. Without Goodman, Sullivan and Fulford take the catching work while Condon adds DH time. Without Amador, Castro and Norby take all 100 second-base starts. These branches preserve total PA and positional starts, but a simultaneous loss of several players requires a fresh combined calculation. The reserve buys flexibility; it earns no unassigned wins or innings.

ANALYSIS / 22

The strongest argument against spending

A 58-win club may reasonably prefer to preserve cash and accept another year of extensive evaluation. Fedde's expected numbers are ordinary, Soroka's arm history matters and Romano's walks could remain damaging. If the hitters regress from several favorable 2026 outcomes, even a moderately more expensive pitching staff could leave Colorado far from contention. Plan A should be rejected if actual medical information or asking prices make its limited coverage benefits too expensive.

The response is to keep the commitments short and preserve the young players' jobs. The preferred plan does not buy a veteran corner bat, surrender a prospect package or require a large multiyear relief obligation. It spends to make the evaluation environment more stable. Young hitters still need to develop, but they should not routinely be asked to overcome a staff that concedes nearly six runs a game.

Illustrative change from 2026	RS / RA	Margin	Simple run-ratio wins
Unchanged runs	752 / 944	-192	62.9
Lose30 runs; allow60 fewer	722 / 884	-162	64.8
Same offense; allow100 fewer	752 / 844	-92	71.7
Score40 more; allow100 fewer	792 / 844	-52	75.9
Same offense; allow160 fewer	752 / 784	-32	77.6

The sensitivity table makes the distance visible. Holding offense at 752 runs while allowing 100 fewer produces a simple run-ratio result near 72 wins. Even a 160-run reduction in runs allowed reaches only about 78 wins by that measure. These are illustrations using changed run totals, not projections, probabilities or assigned wins above replacement for the proposed signings. They show why no reasonable modest purchase should be sold as a quick division challenge.

Colorado should approve a budget only after deciding which risk it prefers: the limited guaranteed cost of Plan A, the longer commitment and stronger control profile of Plan B, or the greater internal exposure of Plan C. The recommendation is A within its ceilings, with Clarke a genuine relief alternative. The stopping rule is equally important: do not increase every price or credit every injured pitcher merely to preserve the preferred conclusion.

ANALYSIS / 23

Player register, definitions and sources

The following roster list preserves the dated research snapshot. Players listed as current are not automatically healthy, on the future active roster or guaranteed a role. Petit is recorded separately as returned to Detroit. The departed table distinguishes free agents, trades, waiver claims and organizational minor-league assignments. The November 3 release check incorporates the latest observed transactions while preserving each player's completed-season evidence.

Player / MLB ID	Pos.	Snapshot treatment
Adael Amador / 691182	2B	November 3 roster membership; health reviewed separately
Blas Castaño / 680604	P	November 3 roster membership; health reviewed separately
Braxton Fulford / 690924	C	November 3 roster membership; health reviewed separately
Brennan Bernardino / 657514	P	November 3 roster membership; health reviewed separately
Brett Sullivan / 664954	C	November 3 roster membership; health reviewed separately
Chase Dollander / 801403	P	November 3 roster membership; health reviewed separately
Cole Carrigg / 694249	CF	November 3 roster membership; health reviewed separately
Connor Norby / 681393	2B	November 3 roster membership; health reviewed separately
Ezequiel Tovar / 678662	SS	November 3 roster membership; health reviewed separately
Gabriel Hughes / 687312	P	November 3 roster membership; health reviewed separately
Hayden Harris / 802686	P	November 3 roster membership; health reviewed separately
Hunter Goodman / 696100	C	November 3 roster membership; health reviewed separately
Jaden Hill / 677955	P	November 3 roster membership; health reviewed separately
Jake McCarthy / 664983	LF	November 3 roster membership; health reviewed separately
Jeff Criswell / 676105	P	November 3 roster membership; health reviewed separately
Jimmy Herget / 623474	P	November 3 roster membership; health reviewed separately

Player / MLB ID	Pos.	Snapshot treatment
Jordan Beck / 687597	RF	November 3 roster membership; health reviewed separately
Juan Mejia / 675848	P	November 3 roster membership; health reviewed separately
Kris Bryant / 592178	DH	November 3 roster membership; health reviewed separately
Kyle Karros / 691720	3B	November 3 roster membership; health reviewed separately
Mark Manfredi / 815081	P	November 3 roster membership; health reviewed separately
Mason Adams / 690279	P	November 3 roster membership; health reviewed separately
McCade Brown / 685326	P	November 3 roster membership; health reviewed separately
Mickey Moniak / 666160	LF	November 3 roster membership; health reviewed separately
Nick Frasso / 693308	P	November 3 roster membership; health reviewed separately
Ryan Feltner / 663372	P	November 3 roster membership; health reviewed separately
Ryan Ritter / 690022	SS	November 3 roster membership; health reviewed separately
Sean Sullivan / 807743	P	November 3 roster membership; health reviewed separately
Sterlin Thompson / 694514	RF	November 3 roster membership; health reviewed separately
TJ Rumfield / 681198	1B	November 3 roster membership; health reviewed separately
Tanner Gordon / 685299	P	November 3 roster membership; health reviewed separately
Troy Johnston / 687859	RF	November 3 roster membership; health reviewed separately
Welinton Herrera / 700327	P	November 3 roster membership; health reviewed separately
Willi Castro / 650489	2B	November 3 roster membership; health reviewed separately
Zac Veen / 691728	LF	November 3 roster membership; health reviewed separately
Zach Agnos / 688642	P	November 3 roster membership; health reviewed separately
RJ Petit /696275	RHP	Returned to Detroit November 3; assigned to Toledo; no Colorado innings

Player / MLB ID	Latest relevant transaction	2027 treatment
Kyle Freeland / 607536	2026-10-29: LHP Kyle Freeland elected free agency.	No retained main-plan work
Tomoyuki Sugano / 608372	2026-10-29: RHP Tomoyuki Sugano elected free agency.	No retained main-plan work
Jose Quintana / 500779	2026-10-29: LHP Jose Quintana elected free agency.	No retained main-plan work
Jordan Romano / 605447	2026-10-29: RHP Jordan Romano elected free agency.	Proposed new purchase only
Michael Lorenzen / 547179	2026-09-21: RHP Michael Lorenzen elected free agency.	No retained main-plan work
Antonio Senzatela / 622608	2026-11-02: RHP Antonio Senzatela elected free agency.	No retained main-plan work
Victor Vodnik / 680767	2026-08-04: Miami Marlins activated RHP Victor Vodnik.	No retained main-plan work
Seth Halvorsen / 678020	2026-10-16: Los Angeles Dodgers activated RHP Seth Halvorsen.	No retained main-plan work
Brenton Doyle / 686668	2026-08-04: Chicago White Sox activated CF Brenton Doyle.	No retained main-plan work
Tyler Freeman / 671289	2026-10-15: RF Tyler Freeman elected free agency.	No retained main-plan work
Edouard Julien / 666397	2026-09-05: Albuquerque Isotopes activated 2B Edouard Julien from the 7-day injured list.	Organizational depth; not major roster
Blake Adams / 687060	2026-11-02: Colorado Rockies sent RHP Blake Adams outright to Albuquerque Isotopes.	Organizational depth; not major roster
Eiberson Castellano / 682769	2026-11-02: Official team update reports free agency after waivers	No retained main-plan work
TJ Shook / 669298	2026-11-02: Official team update reports free agency after waivers	No retained main-plan work
Chad Stevens / 677060	2026-11-02: Official team update reports free agency after waivers	No retained main-plan work
Pierson Ohl / 701487	2026-11-02: New York Mets claimed RHP Pierson Ohl off waivers from Colorado Rockies.	No retained main-plan work

Unless labeled otherwise, Colorado batting and pitching tables describe work performed for Colorado in the completed 2026 regular season. Candidate and expected-statistics comparisons use full MLB seasons. Minor-league rows name their level and remain separate from MLB performance. Innings use baseball notation: .1 is one out and .2 is two outs. Handedness splits describe observed samples, not guaranteed platoon talent.

OAA measures fielding range relative to modeled opportunities. It is not fielding percentage and does not alone describe throwing, receiving or every defensive contribution. Multi-position values are not silently relabeled as full-season ratings at one position. Catcher framing is distinct from total catching value. Missing rows remain unknown, and small samples receive correspondingly limited weight.

The salary tables separate existing allocations, unsigned arbitration estimates, buyout provisions, roster pools and proposed new contracts. Annual additions and total commitments are different when a proposal spans more than one year. They do not establish cash timing, tax treatment, insurance recoveries, actual club offers or player consent. Workloads and price ceilings are independent S&S judgments whose factual inputs are dated below.

[1] MLB: Rockies regular-season statistics

2024-26 completed seasons; team and full-league records saved.

Open source

[2] MLB: completed Colorado game log

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

Open source

[3] MLB: dated Colorado major roster

Both current official roster surfaces list 36 names. Petit returned to Detroit November 3 and is excluded from Colorado workload; legal acquisition capacity is separate.

Open source

[4] MLB: Colorado transactions

Team and individual transaction histories saved separately; trades, options, free agency and injured-list status distinguished.

Open source

[5] MLB: individual statistics and splits

Full MLB seasons separated from Colorado-only samples, fielding innings, home-road and handedness splits.

Open source

[6] Baseball Savant: expected statistics

2024-26 batter and pitcher records. Descriptive expected measures are not a complete park-adjusted forecast.

Open source

[7] Baseball Savant: Outs Above Average

Three-year range values and opportunities; mixed-position totals not recast as single-position ratings.

Open source

[8] Baseball Savant: catcher framing

Full MLB framing values; missing rows remain unknown.

Open source

[9] Baseball Savant: fielding run value

Total catching value includes components beyond framing.

Open source

[10] FanGraphs RosterResource: Colorado payroll

Dated2027 allocations, arbitration and buyout provision. Roster pool and new offers are S&S assumptions.

Open source

[11] MLB: Colorado injury and transaction update

Current status cross-check; source conflicts preserved and no medical clearance inferred.

Open source

[12] Colorado Rockies: Moniak extension announcement

August4 announcement confirms two-year2027-28 agreement.

Open source

[13] MLB: Moniak contract terms

Reported$16.25 million total; annual allocation checked against RosterResource.

Open source

[14] MLB: Freeland extension and option

Historical170-inning2026 trigger; actual2026 innings and later free agency checked separately.

Open source

[15] MLB: Lorenzen agreement

Historical2027 club option is not retained salary after release; buyout liability needs current reconciliation.

Open source

[16] MLB: Albuquerque statistics

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

Open source

[17] MLB: Hartford statistics

Double-A records kept separate from Triple-A and MLB; Fresno and Spokane files also saved.

Open source

[18] MLB Trade Rumors, syndicated by Yardbarker:2027 arbitration projections

Six current Colorado estimates, checked against RosterResource. Unsigned projections, not contracts.

Open source

[19] MLBPA: free-agent register

Individual MLB transactions independently establish candidate status; release-day refresh required.

Open source

[20] MLB: Colorado organizational roster

Major roster, organizational minors, departures and unresolved cases separately classified.

Open source

[21] 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.