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THE 2027 ROSTER PROJECT / DETROIT TIGERS

The Tigers need a new pitching foundation

Protect the young core. Replace the departed innings.

76	+71	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

Detroit outscored its opponents by 71 runs and lost 86 games. That is the first reason to take the Tigers seriously. The second is Kevin McGonigle, whose 707 plate appearances and .806 OPS give the next roster a young everyday anchor. The complication is that much of the pitching that produced the encouraging run margin has moved elsewhere. A sensible 2027 plan must distinguish an underperforming record from a fully retained contender.

The preferred plan purchases Foster Griffin at two years and $28-32 million, Steven Okert at two years and $16-20 million, and Randal Grichuk at one year and $6-8 million. A separate $6-8 million depth reserve brings annual additions to $34-42 million. Griffin receives 30 starts and 165 innings, Okert 60 relief innings, and Grichuk 300 plate appearances in a limited corner-outfield and DH role. These are S&S negotiating ceilings, with current medical and market review still required.

Plan B substitutes Nick Martinez for Griffin at two years and $26-30 million. The same 165-inning assignment costs $1 million less at each annual endpoint and buys a lower-strikeout, lower-walk profile. Plan C signs none of the three players and redistributes every workload to named internal alternatives. It saves money but puts much greater pressure on depth pitchers and recovering outfielders.

The corrected existing-roster allocation is $157.88-161.88 million before acquisitions. Plan A reaches $191.88-203.88 million, including the reserve. That is a proposed allocation, not an ownership-approved payroll. The report includes 6,200 plate appearances, 162 starts at each position and 1,440 pitching innings, with explicit alternatives when agreements or recoveries fail.

ANALYSIS / 02

What the record conceals

The Tigers went from 86 wins in 2024 to 87 in 2025 and 76 in 2026. Their run margin moved from plus-40 to plus-67 to plus-71. In 2026, scoring declined by 35 runs while runs allowed declined by 39. A better aggregate margin therefore accompanied an eleven-win decline. The explanation starts with the distribution of those runs, not an assumption that the entire roster deteriorated. [1,2]

Season	Record	Runs for / against	Margin	OPS / ERA
2024	86-76	682 / 642	+40	.685 / 3.61
2025	87-75	758 / 691	+67	.729 / 3.95
2026	76-86	723 / 652	+71	.720 / 3.67

Detroit finished 17-27 in one-run games and 5-9 in extra innings, calculated from the completed regular-season game log. A simple squared-run ratio produces roughly 89.3 wins from 723 runs scored and 652 allowed. That model describes the unusual gap. It does not award Detroit thirteen missing wins next season, prove that every close loss was bad luck or establish that a new closer would erase the difference.

THE MARGIN IMPROVED. WINS FELL.

2025:87 wins,+67 margin /2026:76 wins,+71 margin



2026 vs2025:35 fewer scored;39 fewer allowed.

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

The useful conclusion is narrower: there is enough underlying team performance to justify targeted reinforcement. The dangerous conclusion is that the 2026 pitching line can simply be copied forward. Tarik Skubal, Casey Mize and Jack Flaherty supplied a combined 271 2/3 Detroit innings. Skubal and Mize were traded, then joined Flaherty in free agency on October 29. Those innings require replacement or redistribution before any improvement is counted.

ANALYSIS / 03

The roster changed before this plan began

The November 3 major-league roster snapshot contains 40 names. On November 2, the Tigers exercised Drew Anderson's option, signed Jacob Waguespack to a one-year major-league agreement and declined Kenley Jansen's option. Seven players were reinstated from the 60-day injured list. Reinstatement is an administrative roster event; it does not establish that a player has completed rehabilitation. [3,4,11]

The official Tigers update also says Corey Julks was outrighted and became a free agent. The API transaction list retained only the outright event, so the current register uses the more complete official announcement. Tsung-Che Cheng's acquisition appears on October 29 in the transaction feed and October 30 on the team update. Both dates are preserved; his current Detroit affiliation is the substantive point.

Player / MLB ID	Latest relevant transaction	Treatment
Tarik Skubal / 669373	2026-10-29: LHP Tarik Skubal elected free agency.	No retained principal workload
Casey Mize / 663554	2026-10-29: RHP Casey Mize elected free agency.	No retained principal workload
Gleyber Torres / 650402	2026-10-29: 2B Gleyber Torres elected free agency.	No retained principal workload
Jack Flaherty / 656427	2026-10-29: RHP Jack Flaherty elected free agency.	No retained principal workload
Kenley Jansen / 445276	2026-11-02: RHP Kenley Jansen elected free agency.	No retained principal workload
Corey Julks / 667452	2026-11-02: Official Tigers injury/transactions page: outrighted and became a free agent. Website corrects incomplete API transaction.	No retained principal workload
Sawyer Gipson-Long / 687830	2026-11-02: Detroit Tigers released RHP Sawyer Gipson-Long.	No retained principal workload
Jake Rogers / 668670	2026-10-29: C Jake Rogers elected free agency.	No retained principal workload
Jahmai Jones / 663330	2026-07-17: Boston Red Sox activated OF Jahmai Jones.	No retained principal workload
Gage Workman / 669398	2026-10-08: San Diego Padres activated 3B Gage Workman.	No retained principal workload
Tomás Nido / 621512	2026-08-28: C Tomás Nido assigned to Worcester Red Sox.	No retained principal workload

Skubal's August 2 trade brought Zyhir Hope, River Ryan and Brady Smith from the Dodgers. The August 3 Mize and Gage Workman trade brought Kash Mayfield and Jackson Wolf from San Diego. Those are different kinds of replacement value: Ryan and Wolf can compete for nearer-term pitching work, while Hope, Mayfield

and Smith remain developmental assets. Counting all five as immediate major-league replacements would overstate what the trades provide.

ANALYSIS / 04

The lineup has a real foundation

McGonigle, Riley Greene and Dillon Dingler give Detroit three important building blocks with different jobs. McGonigle reached base through both contact and 95 walks. Greene produced an .844 OPS in 592 plate appearances. Dingler hit 27 home runs while handling most of the catching workload. The next offense should preserve those strengths while reducing the number of weak or poorly matched plate appearances around them. [5,6]

Player / MLB ID	DET PA	AVG / OBP / SLG	HR	BB / K
Kevin McGonigle / 805808	707	.278 / .376 / .430	18	95 / 100
Spencer Torkelson / 679529	612	.230 / .331 / .435	26	71 / 194
Dillon Dingler / 693307	607	.243 / .302 / .446	27	34 / 139
Riley Greene / 682985	592	.280 / .370 / .474	21	71 / 157
Colt Keith / 690993	423	.258 / .322 / .406	10	32 / 84
Zach McKinstry / 656716	423	.199 / .288 / .294	4	42 / 69
Gleyber Torres / 650402	420	.260 / .364 / .363	8	57 / 81
Hao-Yu Lee / 701678	364	.264 / .322 / .424	10	30 / 87
Matt Vierling / 663837	291	.207 / .255 / .335	5	19 / 49
Kerry Carpenter / 681481	259	.208 / .276 / .416	13	18 / 75
Max Clark / 703601	206	.272 / .350 / .417	3	18 / 42
Javier Báez / 595879	196	.241 / .270 / .364	3	6 / 41
Wenceel Pérez / 672761	175	.180 / .246 / .348	7	14 / 29
Ben Malgeri / 701162	140	.250 / .350 / .417	5	17 / 36
Eduardo Valencia / 680664	138	.341 / .380 / .636	8	6 / 32
Jake Rogers / 668670	110	.161 / .266 / .301	3	13 / 31
Jahmai Jones / 663330	105	.137 / .219 / .221	2	10 / 35
James Outman / 681546	100	.183 / .240 / .366	5	5 / 42
Brett Callahan / 814430	80	.211 / .288 / .324	1	7 / 27
John Peck / 807726	80	.162 / .275 / .176	0	9 / 16

Spencer Torkelson supplied 26 home runs and 71 walks, but also 194 strikeouts. His .766 OPS made him useful without making first base a settled source of surplus value. Colt Keith's .728 OPS in 423 plate

appearances suggests a complementary role with room to improve. Hao-Yu Lee's .746 OPS was promising at the plate, but his defensive result changes how much second-base work the plan should assign him.

The table records Detroit-only production, including players who departed. Gleyber Torres's 420 plate appearances are historical contribution, not retained workload. Jake Rogers, Jahmai Jones and others likewise belong in the season record without being silently placed on the 2027 roster.

ANALYSIS / 05

Expected contact supports some hitters more than others

Greene's .366 wOBA and .369 expected wOBA are close enough to support the central offensive role. McGonigle's .357 and .355 tell a similar story. Dingler's .344 expected mark exceeded his .325 actual figure, adding evidence that his offensive season was more than a favorable home-run total. These are descriptive measures of contact, walks and strikeouts, not projections that automatically replace observed results. [6]

Full MLB season	wOBA	xwOBA	SLG / xSLG
Kevin McGonigle	0.357	0.355	0.430 / 0.445
Spencer Torkelson	0.337	0.314	0.435 / 0.392
Dillon Dingler	0.325	0.344	0.446 / 0.468
Riley Greene	0.366	0.369	0.474 / 0.497
Colt Keith	0.321	0.333	0.406 / 0.423
Zach McKinstry	0.265	0.284	0.294 / 0.310
Gleyber Torres	0.328	0.325	0.363 / 0.368
Hao-Yu Lee	0.325	0.302	0.424 / 0.393
Matt Vierling	0.258	0.304	0.335 / 0.381
Kerry Carpenter	0.301	0.295	0.416 / 0.388
Max Clark	0.337	0.314	0.417 / 0.345
Javier Báez	0.277	0.266	0.364 / 0.325
Wenceel Pérez	0.262	0.272	0.348 / 0.348
Ben Malgeri	0.341	0.317	0.417 / 0.354
Eduardo Valencia	0.433	0.372	0.636 / 0.546
Jake Rogers	0.259	0.267	0.287 / 0.296
Jahmai Jones	0.299	0.328	0.369 / 0.428
James Outman	0.246	0.225	0.318 / 0.273
Brett Callahan	0.274	0.296	0.324 / 0.375
John Peck	0.224	0.310	0.176 / 0.346

Torkelson's .337 wOBA exceeded his .314 expected figure, while his .435 slugging percentage exceeded a .392 expected slugging mark. The prudent plan keeps his power but does not purchase an additional premium bat on the assumption that first base is already producing elite offense. Lee's .325 actual and .302 expected wOBA also argue against treating his initial offensive line as a guaranteed floor.

Eduardo Valencia's 1.016 OPS in 138 major-league plate appearances deserves attention. His .433 wOBA and .372 expected mark show both the quality of the small sample and the distance between actual and expected results. The report assigns 300 plate appearances across catching, first base and DH, not an immediate full-time middle-of-the-order job based on a few months.

ANALYSIS / 06

Development and platoon decisions must be individualized

The three-year view separates established performance from short major-league introductions. Greene has a longer record than Clark or Valencia. McGonigle's first full season is substantial evidence, but it remains one season. An absence in the earlier columns means no major-league season, not zero ability or a forecast of rapid improvement. [5]

Hitter	2024 MLB PA / OPS	2025 MLB PA / OPS	2026 MLB PA / OPS
Kevin McGonigle	No MLB season	No MLB season	707 / .806
Spencer Torkelson	381 / .669	649 / .789	612 / .766
Dillon Dingler	87 / .505	469 / .752	607 / .748
Riley Greene	584 / .827	655 / .806	592 / .844
Colt Keith	556 / .689	468 / .746	423 / .728
Zach McKinstry	325 / .614	511 / .771	423 / .582
Hao-Yu Lee	No MLB season	No MLB season	364 / .746
Matt Vierling	567 / .735	100 / .617	291 / .590
Kerry Carpenter	296 / .932	464 / .788	259 / .692
Max Clark	No MLB season	No MLB season	206 / .767

Handedness creates a specific opening for a right-handed corner hitter. Carpenter had a .723 OPS against righties and .405 in only 27 plate appearances against lefties. Keith's weaker side was an even smaller 25-PA sample. Grichuk's full-season split was 1.026 against lefties in 178 plate appearances and .636 against righties in 102. The proposed role targets those matchups rather than asking him to repeat an .880 overall OPS across 600 plate appearances.

Batter / full MLB season	LHP PA / OPS	RHP PA / OPS
Kevin McGonigle	207 / .659	500 / .868
Spencer Torkelson	179 / .716	433 / .786

Batter / full MLB season	LHP PA / OPS	RHP PA / OPS
Dillon Dingler	190 / .592	417 / .820
Riley Greene	184 / .806	408 / .860
Colt Keith	25 / .285	398 / .757
Hao-Yu Lee	146 / .737	218 / .753
Kerry Carpenter	27 / .405	232 / .723
Max Clark	67 / 1.056	139 / .630
Matt Vierling	119 / .766	172 / .472
Randal Grichuk	178 / 1.026	102 / .636
Lane Thomas	165 / .804	209 / .623

Clark's reverse split is a warning against automatic platoon labels: he posted a 1.056 OPS against lefties and .630 against righties in small major-league samples. He should receive regular development opportunities rather than being removed because of his batting side. Greene's .806 OPS against lefties also makes him a poor player to displace mechanically. Grichuk's principal work comes from the less favorable corner assignments and selected DH days.

ANALYSIS / 07

Defense changes the playing-time argument

Detroit has more than a generic need to catch the ball better. Torkelson and Lee each finished at minus-12 Outs Above Average. Carpenter was minus-eight in 99 opportunities, Greene minus-five in 234, and McGonigle minus-three in 579. Clark's plus-five in 130 opportunities and McKinstry's plus-eight in 331 identify useful counterweights. The different opportunity counts matter. A rate from a small sample cannot be multiplied into a full-season guarantee. [7]

Fielder	2024 OAA	2025 OAA	2026 OAA	2026 opportunities
Kevin McGonigle	No row	No row	-3	579
Spencer Torkelson	+1	-2	-12	405
Riley Greene	+2	+1	-5	234
Colt Keith	+0	-3	-2	183
Hao-Yu Lee	No row	No row	-12	304
Kerry Carpenter	+1	-3	-8	99
Max Clark	No row	No row	+5	130
Zach McKinstry	+2	+0	+8	331
Matt Vierling	+0	+0	+2	174

Fielder	2024 OAA	2025 OAA	2026 OAA	2026 opportunities
Ben Malgeri	No row	No row	+1	73
Javier Báez	-1	+6	-2	193
Randal Grichuk	-1	-2	+0	86
Lane Thomas	-9	-2	-7	223

The preferred plan gives Max Anderson 100 second-base starts after roster selection and defensive evaluation, reducing Lee's principal assignment to 45 starts there plus DH work. Anderson's minor-league record supports consideration; it does not supply a verified major-league OAA estimate. Lee remains a meaningful offensive participant rather than being discarded solely because of one defensive season.

McKinstry's .582 OPS makes 423 plate appearances difficult to repeat by choice, but his range and positional flexibility still have a job. The plan reduces him to 250 plate appearances and uses him across second, third and right field. A defensive replacement can be valuable without becoming an everyday offensive solution.

ANALYSIS / 08

Position history keeps the alignment honest

Keith, Lee, Valencia, McKinstry, Baez and Vierling have overlapping roles, but they are not interchangeable. The official position-specific starts and innings below show the actual 2026 assignments. A proposed new alignment requires coaching and current physical readiness; a player's nominal roster position does not establish equal competence at every spot. [5]

Fielder	2026 DET position	Starts / innings
Javier Báez	LF	7 / 56.0
Javier Báez	RF	1 / 9.0
Hao-Yu Lee	SS	0 / 2.0
Zach McKinstry	LF	1 / 13.0
Zach McKinstry	CF	4 / 35.0
Zach McKinstry	RF	49 / 417.1
Eduardo Valencia	1B	0 / 1.0
Matt Vierling	3B	0 / 1.0
Matt Vierling	RF	8 / 97.1
Zach McKinstry	2B	28 / 256.2
Matt Vierling	CF	51 / 455.1
Eduardo Valencia	C	18 / 164.2
Hao-Yu Lee	2B	53 / 492.2

Fielder	2026 DET position	Starts / innings
Colt Keith	1B	15 / 117.0
Colt Keith	3B	49 / 420.1
Zach McKinstry	SS	19 / 191.0
Javier Báez	2B	4 / 53.1
Javier Báez	SS	31 / 260.1
Javier Báez	CF	10 / 83.0
Hao-Yu Lee	3B	32 / 270.0
Zach McKinstry	3B	4 / 42.1
Matt Vierling	LF	6 / 58.0

Torkelson retains 135 first-base starts because the roster does not contain a verified superior everyday alternative ready to take all of them. Keith supplies 17 and Valencia ten. That allocation preserves offensive stability while making the defensive issue an explicit performance checkpoint. If the first-base problem persists, the club should revisit a genuine two-way alternative rather than assume that a DH rotation has solved it.

Baez's remaining salary does not entitle him to a full-time role. His proposed 200 plate appearances include 30 third-base starts, twelve at shortstop and six at DH. McGonigle remains the principal shortstop. Keeping Baez as a limited veteran option avoids inventing a trade market or pretending that releasing a player removes his guaranteed salary.

ANALYSIS / 09

Catching is an advantage worth protecting

Dingler caught 995 2/3 Detroit innings. Savant credited him with 8.93 framing runs and 16.59 total catching runs. Those measures overlap and must not be added. They nevertheless provide strong evidence that his value extends beyond the 27 home runs. A plan that sacrifices receiving quality to chase a marginal DH improvement would weaken one of the roster's clearest strengths. [8,9]

Catcher	2026 DET catching IP	Full MLB framing	Full MLB catching value
Dillon Dingler	995.2	+8.93	+16.59
Eduardo Valencia	164.2	+1.92	Unknown
Jake Rogers	273.2	-0.19	Unknown
Seby Zavala	No DET sample	Unknown	Unknown

Valencia caught 164 2/3 Detroit innings and had a positive framing sample. His principal role contains 32 catching starts, ten at first and 30 at DH. Seby Zavala receives a limited 50-PA, ten-start catching assignment

after selection. Rogers's earlier Detroit work is retained for comparison, but he is not an internal reserve now. Tomas Nido also moved to Boston after his Toledo release.

If Dingler cannot supply his assignment, Valencia and Zavala each take 250 additional plate appearances and 60 additional catching starts, with Valencia also taking the five DH starts. The arithmetic is complete, but the loss of Dingler's defense and the heavier burden on both backups would materially reduce confidence. A reserve balance is not a substitute for an available catcher.

ANALYSIS / 10

The rotation needs a new workload bridge

Detroit starters covered 826 2/3 innings with a 3.55 ERA. The preferred 2027 plan assigns 885 starter innings, a modest increase intended to relieve pressure on the bullpen. Griffin supplies the largest external block. Valdez, Montero, Melton and Anderson retain substantial roles, while Jobe and Ryan receive bounded assignments reflecting their recent workloads. [1,5,6]

Pitcher / MLB ID	GS / DET IP	ERA / full MLB xERA	K / BB / HR	Planning treatment
Framber Valdez / 664285	31 / 174.0	4.03 / 4.38	135 / 67 / 16	30 starts/165 IP
Keider Montero / 672456	25 / 155.0	3.48 / 3.52	107 / 37 / 17	26/145
Troy Melton / 675512	20 / 114.1	2.76 / 3.84	94 / 37 / 13	24/135; health review
Drew Anderson / 623454	11 / 108.0	3.67 / 3.92	114 / 43 / 16	22/120; exercised10M option
Jackson Jobe / 695549	9 / 46.0	3.91 / 3.84	51 / 16 / 7	18/95; post-TJ workload review
River Ryan / 689981	2 / 4.1	4.15 / 5.09	6 / 3 / 1	8/40; limited recent innings
Ty Madden / 680744	1 / 47.0	3.26 / 2.88	46 / 14 / 5	4/20 plus35 relief
Reese Olson / 681857	0 / 0	No MLB sample / No row	0 / 0 / 0	Shoulder recovery; zero main IP
Tarik Skubal / 669373	16 / 96.2	2.79 / 2.94	116 / 14 / 10	LAD trade; no retained IP
Casey Mize / 663554	16 / 86.2	2.70 / 3.87	85 / 19 / 5	SD trade; no retained IP
Jack Flaherty / 656427	19 / 88.1	4.48 / 4.38	103 / 42 / 11	Free agent; no retained IP

Montero's 3.48 ERA and 3.52 xERA in 155 innings form a more stable foundation than Melton's 2.76 ERA alone might suggest. Melton's xERA was 3.84. Both belong in the plan, but the comparison argues against paying for a glamorous sixth hitter while assuming every retained starter will repeat his best visible number.

Anderson's 108 innings included eleven starts and substantial relief work. Moving him to 22 starts and 120 innings is a proposed role adjustment. It requires a preseason buildup and should not be described as merely retaining last year's rotation slot. His 114 strikeouts and 43 walks support a useful swing role, with a 3.92 xERA tempering the 3.67 ERA.

ANALYSIS / 11

Valdez and the returning arms carry different risks

Valdez produced 174 innings with a 4.03 ERA, 135 strikeouts and 67 walks. His 4.38 xERA and declining margin between strikeouts and walks are reasons to set a 165-inning planning assignment rather than buy his reputation as a second automatic ace. He remains a major commitment and a necessary starter, but the rest of the roster must be able to function if he is useful rather than dominant.

Jobe returned from Tommy John recovery and threw 46 major-league innings. The proposed 95 innings are a material increase and require a current progression review. Ryan's recent record contains multiple minor-league injured-list periods, only 4 2/3 Toledo innings and 4 1/3 Detroit innings. His 40-inning assignment is deliberately limited. Neither pitcher should be the sole answer to the departed 271 2/3 innings.

Olson remains outside the principal innings budget following right-shoulder surgery. Vest likewise receives zero principal innings following elbow stress-fracture repair and hip surgery. Their arbitration estimates remain in the financial base. This separates the cost of retaining a player from a claim that his production is available. If either recovers strongly, the club can replace weaker planned innings after a real evaluation. [11]

ANALYSIS / 12

The bullpen needs command and flexible leverage

The relief staff covered 607 1/3 innings with a 3.84 ERA, 564 strikeouts and 241 walks. Finnegan's 34 walks in 60 2/3 innings and 5.77 xERA make a permanent ninth-inning entitlement hard to defend. His $8 million allocation is a contract fact, not a reason to route the most important outs to him regardless of form. [5,6,10]

Pitcher	DET IP	ERA / full MLB xERA	K / BB	Treatment
Tyler Holton	72.0	2.75 / 3.78	55 / 19	65 IP; multiple-inning flexibility
Kyle Finnegan	60.2	4.30 / 5.77	47 / 34	55 IP; no fixed closer guarantee
Drew Sommers	39.2	3.63 / 2.18	62 / 14	65 IP; strikeout upside
Brant Hurter	35.1	3.06 / 3.68	24 / 15	55 IP
Jacob Waguespack	47.0	2.49 / 3.10	35 / 18	45 IP; new1.3M deal
Beau Brieske	25.1	4.97 / 3.81	24 / 7	50 IP
Enmanuel De Jesus	42.1	3.83 / 4.45	39 / 15	45 IP
Brenan Hanifee	21.1	5.06 / 6.07	10 / 7	35 IP
Ty Madden	47.0	3.26 / 2.88	46 / 14	35 relief plus20 starts
Andrew Sears	19.0	7.11 / 4.45	15 / 8	25 relief; starting reserve

Pitcher	DET IP	ERA / full MLB xERA	K / BB	Treatment
Jackson Wolf	0	No sample / No row	0 / 0	35 relief; starting reserve
Will Vest	26.2	6.08 / 3.98	27 / 10	Surgical recovery; zero main IP
Kenley Jansen	45.0	3.20 / 3.60	51 / 23	Option declined; no retained IP

Drew Sommers offers a different profile: 62 strikeouts and 14 walks in 39 2/3 innings, with a 2.18 xERA. That is promising evidence for more responsibility, tempered by the small workload. Holton and Hurter provide left-handed flexibility, while Brieske's 3.81 xERA was more encouraging than his 4.97 ERA. The plan should distribute leverage according to matchup, command and availability rather than a single expensive label.

Okert's proposed 60 innings address the command problem directly. He struck out 68 and walked 14 in 67 2/3 innings, with a 2.13 ERA and 3.13 xERA. A September hamstring absence remains a medical condition on any offer. Taylor Clarke is a cheaper alternative, but his 4.42 xERA and 45 strikeouts in 73 innings provide a weaker foundation than the 2.96 ERA alone suggests.

ANALYSIS / 13

The farm should improve the roster without being rushed

Max Anderson's .863 OPS, 53 walks and 63 strikeouts in 482 Toledo plate appearances make him the most useful immediate position-player audition in this plan. He receives 450 major-league plate appearances only after selection and readiness review. That is an opportunity with a fallback, not a declaration that minor-league success guarantees a league-average major-league season. [15,16,19,20]

Player / MLB ID	2026 team-level sample	Readiness decision
Max Anderson / 801194	AAA Toledo: 482 PA, .863 OPS; 53 BB / 63 K	450 MLB PA and100 starts at2B after selection
Jace Jung / 690291	AAA Toledo: 569 PA, .765 OPS; 86 BB / 117 K	100 PA in principal plan
Eduardo Valencia / 680664	AAA Toledo: 354 PA, .826 OPS; 35 BB / 75 K	300 MLB PA; do not extrapolate MLB1.016 OPS
Ben Malgeri / 701162	AAA Toledo: 297 PA, .897 OPS; 38 BB / 74 K	200 PA; CF backup
Thayron Liranzo / 699073	AA Erie: 350 PA, .761 OPS; 50 BB / 100 K	Development; no principal MLB PA
Zyhir Hope / 814307	AA Erie: 139 PA, .822 OPS; 17 BB / 35 K	Erie sample only; no principal MLB PA
Brady Smith / 806224	High-A West Michigan: 6.1 IP, 2.84 ERA; 5 K / 4 BB	Acquired from LAD; no main MLB IP
Jackson Wolf / 680232	AAA Toledo: 33.1 IP, 1.62 ERA; 40 K / 14 BB	20 relief IP, with explicit starting alternatives
River Ryan / 689981	AAA Toledo: 4.2 IP, 3.86 ERA; 4 K / 1 BB	Small Toledo sample; recovery/workload gate
Jackson Jobe / 695549	AA Erie: 7.0 IP, 1.29 ERA; 7 K / 2 BB	Rehab sample; not a full-season workload
Jake Miller / 805725	AA Erie: 3.0 IP, 0.00 ERA; 2 K / 2 BB	Recovery; no principal IP

Player / MLB ID	2026 team-level sample	Readiness decision
Seby Zavala / 664874	AAA Toledo: 86 PA, .701 OPS; 9 BB / 28 K	50 PA/10 C starts after roster selection
Tyler Mattison / 694331	AAA Toledo: 54.1 IP, 3.81 ERA; 63 K / 42 BB	Emergency innings;42 BB in54.1 IP
Jack Little / 669193	AAA Toledo: 61.1 IP, 4.11 ERA; 60 K / 25 BB	Emergency starting/relief depth

Liranzo and Hope remain valuable developmental cases. Liranzo's Erie sample was 350 plate appearances with a .761 OPS; Hope's 139 Erie plate appearances are only his post-trade team sample. Neither receives principal major-league plate appearances. Mayfield's August injured-list period and Smith's small West Michigan sample likewise argue for development rather than filling a spreadsheet with immediate innings.

Wolf's 33 1/3 Toledo innings included 40 strikeouts and 14 walks with a 1.62 ERA. His principal assignment is 20 relief innings, with specific starting alternatives if acquisitions fail. The sample is useful but too small to establish a 150-inning major-league floor. Mattison's 42 walks in 54 1/3 Toledo innings make him emergency depth rather than a hidden bullpen solution. Miller's limited rehabilitation season keeps him outside the main budget.

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Acquisition choices and the strongest alternatives

Griffin's full-season record was 172 2/3 innings, a 3.60 ERA, 158 strikeouts and 45 walks. His 4.35 xERA is a substantial counterweight to the ERA. He is narrowly preferred here because Detroit needs both innings and more strikeout capacity after losing Skubal and Mize. The proposal is not an ace contract, and an unfavorable medical review or higher asking price would move Martinez ahead of him. [5,6]

Candidate / MLB ID	Full2026 MLB evidence	S&S decision
Foster Griffin / 656492	172.2 IP, 3.60 ERA, 4.35 xERA; 158 K/45 BB	A:2/$28-32M;30 starts/165 IP
Steven Okert / 595345	67.2 IP, 2.13 ERA, 3.13 xERA; 68 K/14 BB	A/B:2/$16-20M;60 relief IP
Randal Grichuk / 545341	280 PA, .880 OPS, 15 HR; 0.37/0.335 wOBA/xwOBA	A/B:1/$6-8M;300 PA,70 starts
Nick Martinez / 607259	180.0 IP, 3.10 ERA, 3.98 xERA; 109 K/26 BB	B:2/$26-30M;30/165 replaces Griffin
Taylor Clarke / 664199	73.0 IP, 2.96 ERA, 4.42 xERA; 45 K/14 BB	1/$4-6M fallback for60 IP;4.42 xERA limits bid
Tyler Mahle / 641816	149.0 IP, 3.99 ERA, 3.95 xERA; 137 K/46 BB	Alternative;149 IP,3.99 ERA; compare medical/price
Lane Thomas / 657041	374 PA, .701 OPS, 11 HR; 0.313/0.311 wOBA/xwOBA	1/$6-8M fallback;300 PA, weaker RF range
Adrian Houser / 605288	109.2 IP, 4.02 ERA, 4.95 xERA; 75 K/34 BB	Current Giants contract; not assumed available

Candidate / MLB ID	Full2026 MLB evidence	S&S decision
Michael Wacha / 608379	200.2 IP, 3.32 ERA, 4.01 xERA; 158 K/54 BB	Current KC contract; no trade surplus assumed
Walker Buehler / 621111	153.2 IP, 4.63 ERA, 4.30 xERA; 131 K/57 BB	4.63 ERA,57 BB; not preferred
Trevor Williams / 592866	28.2 IP, 3.14 ERA, 3.84 xERA; 34 K/10 BB	Only28.2 IP; not a volume solution
Ramón Laureano / 657656	206 PA, .660 OPS, 7 HR; 0.292/0.312 wOBA/xwOBA	206 PA; injury review; no principal purchase
Austin Hays / 669720	105 PA, .705 OPS, 3 HR; 0.304/0.295 wOBA/xwOBA	105 PA; insufficient volume for main plan
Teoscar Hernández / 606192	491 PA, .759 OPS, 16 HR; 0.332/0.332 wOBA/xwOBA	LAD contract; no assumed salary dump
Eugenio Suárez / 553993	498 PA, .740 OPS, 26 HR; 0.324/0.303 wOBA/xwOBA	26 HR; would displace Keith/Lee, no main purchase

Martinez threw 180 innings with 109 strikeouts, 26 walks and a 3.10 ERA. His 3.98 xERA is less spectacular but supports a volume-and-control purchase. Griffin offers 49 more strikeouts in slightly fewer innings; Martinez offers much fewer walks. Both are credible choices. The difference in their proposed ceilings is small enough that actual terms should decide the final order.

Grichuk's role is a right-handed matchup purchase, not an everyday outfield makeover. His .370 wOBA exceeded a .335 expected mark, so the $6-8 million ceiling stays tied to 300 plate appearances and 70 starts. Lane Thomas is a same-price fallback with a weaker 2026 overall line and minus-seven OAA. Neither is bought to displace Clark's center-field development.

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Compare the job across clubs before repeating a name

The same candidates appear in other S&S dossiers because similar baseball problems sometimes justify the same inquiry. Detroit's Griffin ceiling matches the Washington alternative: two years and $28-32 million for roughly 165 innings. Washington preferred Martinez's control; Detroit narrowly favors Griffin's strikeout contribution after trading two important starters. That is a club-specific judgment, not evidence that either pitcher has agreed to this price. [21]

Okert's two-year, $16-20 million range matches the Seattle and Washington preparations and the annual ceiling considered for Minnesota. Detroit's 60 innings replace ten innings each from Holton, Sommers, Hurter, Brieske, De Jesus and Hanifee in the internal alternative. The proposed purchase has an explicit displaced workload rather than merely adding another name to a bullpen list.

Grichuk's 300-PA, $6-8 million role is close to Seattle's proposed assignment and somewhat larger than the Cubs' roughly 260-PA case. The earlier Phillies alternative had a larger corner role and a $7-9 million ceiling. These are different job-specific limits. The internal Detroit route uses Malgeri, Vierling, McKinstry and Lee instead. None of these independently modeled rosters can assume that the same free agent is simultaneously obtainable by every club.

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The contract ledger needs an option correction

The retained contract allocations total $97.883 million. RosterResource's 2027 guaranteed headline is $87.883 million, which omits Anderson's now-exercised $10 million option even though the player-level record and official team update confirm the commitment. The dossier adds that amount rather than treating the headline as a complete budget. [10,11,18]

Player / MLB ID	2027 allocation	Basis
Framber Valdez / 664285	$47.500M	37.5M base +10M allocated bonus; bonus deferred2030-39;2028 player option separate
Javier Báez / 595879	$24.000M	Final guaranteed year; no salary-dump saving assumed
Kevin McGonigle / 805808	$2.750M	1M base +1.75M bonus allocation;8/$150M starts2027
Kyle Finnegan / 640448	$8.000M	2028 option and2.25M potential buyout separate
Drew Anderson / 623454	$10.000M	2027 club option exercisedNov2; included despite lagged headline
Colt Keith / 690993	$4.333M	4M base +0.333M bonus allocation
Jacob Waguespack / 621097	$1.300M	New one-year2027 major-league agreement
TOTAL	$97.883M	Allocation, not cash or tax AAV

Valdez's $47.5 million annual allocation consists of $37.5 million in base salary and $10 million of signing-bonus allocation. The $20 million signing bonus is deferred in ten $2 million installments from 2030 through 2039. The allocation is therefore different from current-year cash and from the source's $36.523 million tax AAV. His $35 million 2028 player option is a future contingent obligation, not guaranteed payroll relief. [10,13]

McGonigle's eight-year, $150 million extension begins in 2027 and runs through 2034. The first-year allocation is only $2.75 million, but it rises to $8.75 million in 2028 and much higher thereafter. Baez's final guaranteed year creates future flexibility, yet the club still has arbitration growth and option decisions. A low future guaranteed subtotal is not a complete future roster cost. [10,12]

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Arbitration and the full roster envelope

The eleven arbitration estimates total $42 million. They are projected salaries, not signed agreements. Vest, Olson, Perez and Meadows remain in the cost base even though the main workload plan gives them no production. Non-tendering an injured or uncertain player could change the cost, but this analysis does not book a saving before a real decision. [17]

Player	Estimate, $M	Treatment
Will Vest	4.40	Unsigned estimate; salary retained even where workload is zero
Zach McKinstry	5.00	Unsigned estimate; salary retained even where workload is zero
Matt Vierling	3.70	Unsigned estimate; salary retained even where workload is zero
Riley Greene	9.30	Unsigned estimate; salary retained even where workload is zero
Spencer Torkelson	7.70	Unsigned estimate; salary retained even where workload is zero
Kerry Carpenter	4.10	Unsigned estimate; salary retained even where workload is zero
Tyler Holton	2.40	Unsigned estimate; salary retained even where workload is zero
Beau Brieske	1.50	Unsigned estimate; salary retained even where workload is zero
Reese Olson	1.50	Unsigned estimate; salary retained even where workload is zero
Wenceel Perez	1.40	Unsigned estimate; salary retained even where workload is zero
Parker Meadows	1.00	Unsigned estimate; salary retained even where workload is zero
TOTAL	42.00	11 cases; source aggregate reconciles

Component	Annual allocation	Definition
Seven retained contracts	$97.883M	Anderson10M exercise included
Arbitration estimates	$42M	Unsigned; no non-tender savings
Jansen buyout	$2M	Declined option; payment timing separate
Pre-arb, minors, callups	$16-20M	S&S roster pool; new minimum and costs unresolved
Existing-roster envelope	$157.88-161.88M	Benefits and tax excluded
RR2027 headline	$131.883M	Missing Anderson10M and complete roster pool

Component	Annual allocation	Definition
RR buyout discrepancy	$2.1M vs2M listed	Use identifiable2M; unexplained0.1M within reserve, recheck
RR2026 player estimate	$205.011M	Historical, not approved budget
2028 guaranteed allocations	$14.083M	Valdez35M player option and Finnegan option additional

The envelope adds the identifiable $2 million Jansen buyout and a $16-20 million pre-arbitration, minor-league and callup pool. The payroll source's buyout aggregate says $2.1 million while its identified 2027 payment is $2 million. That unexplained $0.1 million is a reconciliation item within the reserve, not a fabricated obligation or a reason to ignore the larger option correction. Benefits and competitive-balance tax are outside this player-allocation measure.

The 2026 source estimate of $205.011 million is a historical comparison. It does not establish an authorized 2027 budget or prove ownership will maintain that spending. The model uses the observed option decisions and unsigned arbitration estimates. Actual settlements, future labor terms, payment timing and ownership authorization can change the amount available to spend.

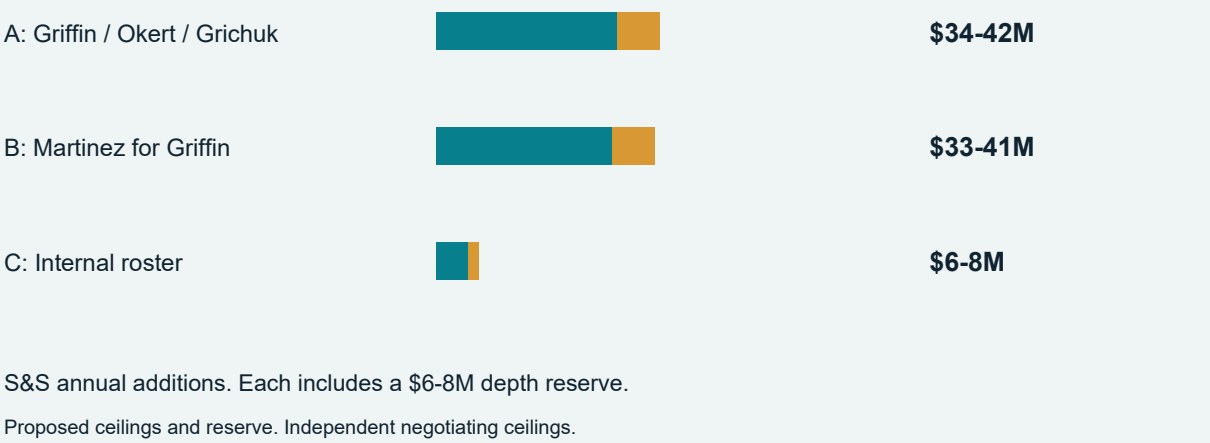
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Three funded paths

Plan A adds $14-16 million annually for Griffin, $8-10 million for Okert, $6-8 million for Grichuk and the $6-8 million reserve. The total is $34-42 million. Counting both years of the two pitching agreements produces $56-68 million in new commitment including the first-year reserve. No trade proceeds or speculative salary savings subsidize the plan.

Plan	Annual additions	Total allocation	New commitment
A: Griffin / Okert / Grichuk	$34-42M	$191.88-203.88M	$56-68M
B: Martinez for Griffin	$33-41M	$190.88-202.88M	$54-66M
C: Internal roster	$6-8M	$163.88-169.88M	$6-8M

THREE ANNUAL SPENDING PLANS



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

Proposed ceilings and reserve. Independent negotiating ceilings.

Plan B's Martinez substitution reduces annual additions to $33-41 million and new commitments to $54-66 million. Plan C retains only the $6-8 million reserve, bringing total allocation to $163.88-169.88 million. The internal plan assigns all 165 Griffin innings, all 60 Okert innings and all 300 Grichuk plate appearances to named players. It does not credit an unspent allowance with performance.

No principal plan trades a prospect, so there is no invented outgoing package. Any later trade inquiry for a contracted pitcher such as Wacha or Houser must identify the exact incoming job, salary responsibility, control and outgoing talent before entering the budget. Free-agent draft compensation also requires current qualifying-offer status and applicable rules; no assumed exemption is embedded in these ranges.

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Plate appearances and starts must agree

The 6,200-PA allocation is a season-long model that includes replacements and promotions. It is not a claim that eighteen hitters occupy the active roster at once. McGonigle and Greene retain the largest roles; Dingler receives planned rest; Clark gets regular center-field development; and Carpenter's recovering foot limits the principal assignment to 400 plate appearances. [5,11]

Hitter	PA	Condition
Dillon Dingler	500	Health and performance; season-long allocation
Eduardo Valencia	300	Health and performance; season-long allocation
Seby Zavala	50	Selection and readiness
Spencer Torkelson	550	Health and performance; season-long allocation
Riley Greene	600	Health and performance; season-long allocation
Kevin McGonigle	650	Health and performance; season-long allocation
Colt Keith	500	Health and performance; season-long allocation

Hitter	PA	Condition
Max Anderson	450	Selection and readiness
Hao-Yu Lee	350	Health and performance; season-long allocation
Max Clark	550	Health and performance; season-long allocation
Kerry Carpenter	400	Health and performance; season-long allocation
Randal Grichuk	300	Proposed signing
Matt Vierling	200	Health and performance; season-long allocation
Zach McKinstry	250	Health and performance; season-long allocation
Javier Baez	200	Health and performance; season-long allocation
Ben Malgeri	200	Health and performance; season-long allocation
Jace Jung	100	Health and performance; season-long allocation
John Peck	50	Health and performance; season-long allocation
TOTAL	6200	Meadows, Perez and Sweeney outside principal workload

Pos.	162-start allocation	Condition
C	Dingler 120; Valencia 32; Zavala 10	Season plan; selection, health and defensive reviews required
1B	Torkelson 135; Keith 17; Valencia 10	Season plan; selection, health and defensive reviews required
2B	Max Anderson 100; Lee 45; McKinstry 17	Season plan; selection, health and defensive reviews required
3B	Keith 100; Baez 30; Jung 22; McKinstry 10	Season plan; selection, health and defensive reviews required
SS	McGonigle 145; Baez 12; Peck 5	Season plan; selection, health and defensive reviews required
LF	Greene 130; Grichuk 22; Malgeri 10	Season plan; selection, health and defensive reviews required
CF	Clark 130; Malgeri 22; Vierling 10	Season plan; selection, health and defensive reviews required
RF	Carpenter 65; Grichuk 40; Vierling 35; McKinstry 22	Season plan; selection, health and defensive reviews required
DH	Carpenter 30; Greene 12; Torkelson 10; Lee 35; Valencia 30; Keith 5; Dingler 5; Baez 6; Jung 3; Grichuk 8; Clark 8; McGonigle 10	Season plan; selection, health and defensive reviews required

Every position has 162 assigned starts, and no player exceeds 162 across positions. Max Anderson and Zavala require roster selection. The current 40-name snapshot gives no automatic space for those selections or the three external signings. Actual roster moves, option eligibility and waivers must be resolved before implementation. This report does not name convenient releases solely to make room on paper.

If Max Anderson does not earn the job, Lee takes 200 additional plate appearances and 50 second-base starts, McKinstry 150 and 35, and Jung 100 and fifteen. That branch preserves the total while revealing its cost: more exposure to Lee's defensive uncertainty and McKinstry's weak offensive season. The promotion is a testable improvement opportunity, not the only possible lineup.

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Innings and failed-negotiation branches

The preferred plan divides 1,440 innings into 885 from starters and 555 from relievers. That is a planning convention rather than a prediction of the exact number of innings a season will contain. Madden's 20 starting and 35 relief innings are counted once in the combined workload. Jobe remains at 95 and Ryan at 40, with no principal innings from Olson, Vest, Miller or Mayfield.

Pitcher	GS / IP	Condition
Framber Valdez	30 / 165	Recovery, innings progression and performance review
Foster Griffin	30 / 165	Proposed signing and current medical review
Keider Montero	26 / 145	Recovery, innings progression and performance review
Troy Melton	24 / 135	Recovery, innings progression and performance review
Drew Anderson	22 / 120	Recovery, innings progression and performance review
Jackson Jobe	18 / 95	Recovery, innings progression and performance review
River Ryan	8 / 40	Recovery, innings progression and performance review
Ty Madden	4 / 20	Recovery, innings progression and performance review
TOTAL	162 / 885	No main innings from Olson, Vest, Miller or Mayfield

Pitcher	IP	Condition
Steven Okert	60	Proposed signing; hamstring review
Tyler Holton	65	Combined starting/relief workloads checked
Kyle Finnegan	55	Combined starting/relief workloads checked
Drew Sommers	65	Combined starting/relief workloads checked
Brant Hurter	55	Combined starting/relief workloads checked
Jacob Waguespack	45	Combined starting/relief workloads checked
Beau Brieske	50	Combined starting/relief workloads checked
Enmanuel De Jesus	45	Combined starting/relief workloads checked
Brenan Hanifee	35	Combined starting/relief workloads checked
Ty Madden	35	Combined starting/relief workloads checked

Pitcher	IP	Condition
Andrew Sears	25	Combined starting/relief workloads checked
Jackson Wolf	20	Combined starting/relief workloads checked
TOTAL	555	885 starting +555 relief =1,440 IP

Change from A	Removed workload	Named replacement
B: Martinez for Griffin	30 starts/165 IP	Martinez takes identical workload; different price/profile
C: no Griffin	30 starts/165 IP	Montero+4/20; Melton+4/20; Anderson+4/20; Madden+6/35; Sears+6/35; Wolf+6/35
C: no Okert	60 relief IP	Holton, Sommers, Hurter, Brieske, De Jesus, Hanifee +10 each
C: no Grichuk	300 PA;22 LF/40 RF/8 DH	Malgeri+100PA/22 LF; Vierling+100/20 RF; McKinstry+50/20 RF; Lee+50/8 DH
No Jobe and Ryan after C	26 starts/135 IP	Madden+8/40; Sears+6/30; Wolf+6/35; Jack Little+6/30
No Max Anderson	450 PA/100 2B	Lee+200PA/50 2B; McKinstry+150/35 2B; Jung+100/15 2B
No Carpenter	400 PA;65 RF/30 DH	Grichuk+100PA/25 RF; Vierling+100/20 RF; Malgeri+100/20 RF; Valencia+100/30 DH
No Vierling	200 PA;10 CF/35 RF	Malgeri+100PA/10 CF/15 RF; McKinstry+100/20 RF
No Clark	550 PA;130 CF/8 DH	Malgeri+250PA/70 CF; Vierling+150/40 CF; Meadows+150/20 CF/8 DH only if cleared; otherwise Cal Stevenson with same work
No Dingler	500 PA;120 C/5 DH	Valencia+250PA/60 C/5 DH; Zavala+250PA/60 C; development cost explicit
Multiple hitter failures	Combined replanning required	Individual branches not automatically additive; replacement selection and workload gates remain

If Griffin is not signed, Montero, Melton and Anderson each add four starts and twenty innings; Madden, Sears and Wolf each add six starts and 35 innings. If Jobe and Ryan are also unavailable under that internal plan, Madden adds eight starts and forty innings, Sears six and thirty, Wolf six and 35, and Jack Little six and thirty. The combined failure case still covers 162 starts and 1,440 innings. It is a substantially weaker staff, with difficult development and selection decisions, rather than an equally attractive cheap option.

The individual hitter-recovery branches are not automatically additive. Losing Carpenter, Vierling and Clark together would overload some of the same replacements and require a new combined plan. The reserve may fund a verified solution, but no unnamed player receives plate appearances simply because money has been set aside.

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The countercase and the decision checkpoints

The strongest argument against the preferred purchases is that Detroit's good run margin came partly from pitchers it no longer controls, while several young hitters carry defensive or sample-size risks. Spending near the prior year's allocation could produce a more expensive team that still struggles to turn aggregate runs into wins. Griffin's 4.35 xERA, Okert's age and recent hamstring issue, and Grichuk's narrow platoon role make that objection substantive.

Split	Record	Runs for / against	OPS / ERA
Home	42-39	357 /303	.725 /3.35
Road	34-47	366 /349	.715 /3.99

Illustration, not forecast	RS / RA	Margin	Simple run-ratio wins
2026 baseline	723 / 652	+71	89.3
Departed pitching not replaced	723 / 702	+21	83.4
Score30 more; allow30 more	753 / 682	+71	89.0
Score30 more; retain prevention	753 / 652	+101	92.6
Score50 more; allow20 fewer	773 / 632	+141	97.1

The recommendation survives that countercase because the purchases have bounded jobs and short commitments, while the lineup retains room for McGonigle, Clark, Anderson and Valencia to develop. It should be reversed if the medical or actual price evidence invalidates those jobs. Preserving the 2026 run-prevention total while adding thirty runs would be useful; allowing fifty more would erode much of the margin even with unchanged offense. The sensitivity table illustrates those consequences without assigning a forecast probability.

At spring training, test the returning pitchers' workload progressions, Carpenter and Vierling's current movement, Anderson's second-base readiness and Valencia's receiving under a larger workload. At roughly thirty games, review strikeout and walk trends, defensive opportunities and the distribution of leverage innings. Do not convert a few close losses into a mandate for an expensive closer or a few prospect hits into an irreversible everyday role. The objective is a roster that can sustain good baseball across the season.

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Dated major-league roster register

This is the November 3 official major-league roster snapshot. Current-player identities, individual transaction histories and organizational affiliations were reconciled separately from historical Detroit contributors and external targets. Administrative activation does not replace the current medical review. [3,4,11,19]

Player / MLB ID	Pos.	Snapshot treatment
Andrew Sears / 808825	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Beau Brieske / 689225	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Ben Malgeri / 701162	RF	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Brant Hurter / 676428	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Brenan Hanifee / 669724	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Brett Callahan / 814430	LF	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Colt Keith / 690993	3B	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Dillon Dingler / 693307	C	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Drew Anderson / 623454	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Drew Sommers / 805427	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Eduardo Valencia / 680664	DH	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Enmanuel De Jesus / 646241	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Framber Valdez / 664285	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Hao-Yu Lee / 701678	2B	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Jace Jung / 690291	3B	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Jackson Jobe / 695549	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Jacob Waguespack / 621097	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Jake Miller / 805725	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Javier Báez / 595879	SS	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
John Peck / 807726	SS	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Keider Montero / 672456	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Kerry Carpenter / 681481	RF	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Kevin McGonigle / 805808	SS	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Kyle Finnegan / 640448	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Matt Vierling / 663837	CF	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Max Clark / 703601	CF	40-name roster; no empty place assumed

Player / MLB ID	Pos.	Snapshot treatment
Parker Meadows / 678009	CF	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Reese Olson / 681857	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Riley Greene / 682985	LF	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
River Ryan / 689981	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Spencer Torkelson / 679529	1B	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Thayron Liranzo / 699073	C	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Trey Sweeney / 700242	SS	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Troy Melton / 675512	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Tsung-Che Cheng / 691907	SS	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Ty Madden / 680744	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Tyler Holton / 663947	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Wenceel Pérez / 672761	RF	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Will Vest / 676684	P	40-name roster; no empty place assumed
Zach McKinstry / 656716	RF	40-name roster; no empty place assumed

The season plan requires transactions and selections before it can become an active roster. The 40-name count is not a statement that all players are healthy, all options remain or all proposed signings can fit without displacement. The November 3 edition reflects the current roster, transactions, market status and disclosed contract decisions. Detroit also received RJ Petit back from Colorado under Rule 5 on November 3 and assigned him to Toledo. He is organizational depth outside the 40-name major-roster snapshot and receives no principal innings in these scenarios. [3,4]

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Sources and definitions

Research and roster snapshot: November 3, 2026. Major-league statistical tables use completed regular seasons unless explicitly labeled otherwise. Detroit-only samples are separate from full-season MLB candidate records. Minor-league rows identify the actual affiliate and level. An innings suffix of .1 or .2 means one or two outs, not a decimal tenth. The planning totals use whole innings.

Expected statistics describe observed contact and other components; they are not stand-alone forecasts. OAA measures range with opportunities and sample sizes shown. Framing overlaps total catching value. Proposed prices are S&S limits, not reported demands, club offers or guaranteed availability. Allocation, cash timing and tax AAV are different measures. The squared-run sensitivity uses 162 multiplied by runs scored squared divided by the sum of runs scored squared and runs allowed squared; it is an illustration, not a predicted record.

[1] MLB: Tigers regular-season statistics

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

Open source

[2] MLB: Tigers completed game log

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

Open source

[3] MLB: dated Tigers major roster

40 current names; no empty roster places assumed.

Open source

[4] MLB: Tigers transactions

Individual transaction histories, trades and free agency reconciled.

Open source

[5] MLB: player statistics and splits

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

Open source

[6] Baseball Savant: expected statistics

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

Open source

[7] Baseball Savant: Outs Above Average

Three-year range evidence and opportunities.

Open source

[8] Baseball Savant: catcher framing

Full MLB framing, separate from Athletics innings.

Open source

[9] Baseball Savant: fielding run value

Catching values overlap framing; do not sum.

Open source

[10] FanGraphs RosterResource: Tigers payroll

2027 allocations, deferred bonus, options, buyouts and arbitration aggregate; Anderson10M headline correction explicit.

Open source

[11] MLB: Tigers injury and roster update

Dated recovery reports separated from administrative activations.

Open source

[12] MLB: McGonigle extension

Eight years,150M, covering2027-34; annual allocations from payroll source.

Open source

[13] MLB: Valdez agreement

Three-year115M contract; salary/bonus/option and deferral detail from dated payroll record.

Open source

[14] MLB: Tigers home-road records

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

Open source

[15] MLB: Toledo statistics

Triple-A batting and pitching records saved separately.

Open source

[16] MLB: Erie statistics

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

Open source

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

Eleven unsigned Tigers estimates sum to42M.

Open source

[18] MLB:2027 options and opt-outs

Anderson exercise and Jansen decline; current team update also saved.

Open source

[19] MLB: Tigers organizational roster

Organizational minors distinguished from current major roster.

Open source

[20] MLB Pipeline: Tigers prospects

Prospect identities and levels; ranking is not readiness.

Open source

[21] Stadium & Street: cross-club series

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

Open source

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