STADIUM & STREET

THE 2027 ROSTER PROJECT / MINNESOTA TWINS

Make the Twins harder to beat

Keep the offense. Stop supplying baserunners.

77	-58	3
WINS	RUN MARGIN	COSTED PATHS

An independent review of the roster, defense, pitching, farm system and financial choices.

A preferred plan. A cheaper alternative.
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 recommendation: buy fewer free baserunners

Minnesota scored 739 runs in 2026, ninth in the majors, and still finished 77-85. The pitching staff allowed 797 runs. The bullpen walked 293 batters in 583 1/3 innings. A winter centered on finding another designated hitter would leave the larger problem largely intact. [1,2]

The preferred plan keeps a credible starting catcher, purchases two relievers with better recent walk records and reduces the defensive burden on several useful hitters. Ryan Jeffers' existing $23.15 million qualifying offer supplies the first conditional branch. Steven Okert is the preferred left-handed relief inquiry at an S&S ceiling of two years and $16-20 million. Andrew Kittredge is the complementary right-handed inquiry at one year and $5-7 million. Retain another $5-7 million for depth and injuries. These limits are proposed judgments, not reported demands, offers or agreements.

That plan requires an annual allocation of approximately $161.73-171.73 million, including an existing-roster envelope of $120.58-124.58 million. It is an expensive response to a team that won 77 games. The argument for it rests on preserving catcher offense while improving the innings that repeatedly became difficult to finish. It does not rest on assuming that spending a particular amount buys a particular win total.

If Jeffers declines and a reunion cannot be completed on acceptable terms, Carson Kelly is a different catcher alternative at two years and $16-20 million. Plan B combines that purchase with the same two relievers and reserve, for approximately $146.58-158.58 million. Plan C makes no major external purchase and shifts the work internally. Its lower cost comes with a much weaker catching safety net and more innings assigned to pitchers whose command already needs improvement.

Pohlad has promised a larger payroll without disclosing a ceiling. [18] Minnesota should settle that ceiling before shopping. A club cannot responsibly promise catcher retention, bullpen improvement and another impact bat while budgeting only enough money for one of them.

ANALYSIS / 02

The offense improved faster than the prevention

Season	Record	Runs for / against	Margin	OPS / ERA
2024	82-80	742 / 735	+7	.726 / 4.26
2025	70-92	678 / 773	-95	.707 / 4.55
2026	77-85	739 / 797	-58	.720 / 4.56

The Twins added 61 runs of offense from 2025 to 2026. Runs allowed also increased, by 24. Their run differential improved by 37, from minus-95 to minus-58, but the prevention side continued to absorb much of the gain. The club's seven additional wins represented progress without establishing a sound contention

baseline. [1,2]

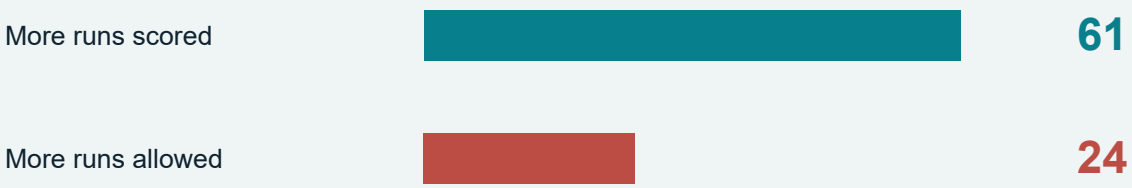
The offensive improvement did not come from more home runs. Minnesota hit 187, four fewer than the year before. Walks rose from 495 to 507 and strikeouts fell from 1,372 to 1,297. The lineup created more opportunities and wasted fewer plate appearances, even with a number of individual weaknesses still visible. Those are useful developments to preserve.

The pitching staff finished with a 4.56 ERA, 25th in the majors. Its 727 earned runs were accompanied by another 70 runs classified as unearned. Unearned runs do not measure the full defensive cost, and they cannot all be assigned to range. They do show why examining only the pitchers' ERA leaves part of the team's actual scoring deficit outside the discussion.

The basic runs-squared relationship produces approximately 74.9 wins from 739 scored and 797 allowed. Minnesota actually won 77. That simple calculation is an illustration of the run environment, not an estimate of managerial value or an official projection. It reinforces the practical point: this was a team whose underlying scoring and prevention still required a substantial change.

61 MORE RUNS, BUT 24 MORE ALLOWED

2025 margin: -95 / 2026 margin: -58



The offense gained ground. Prevention surrendered part of it.

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

ANALYSIS / 03

Begin with the roster that exists now

Jeffers, A.J. Minter, Taylor Rogers and Josh Bell are free agents. Banda, Gray and Sabato were also outrighted into free agency. [4,15] Those players' 2026 contributions remain part of the historical record. Their production is not automatically available to Minnesota in 2027.

Joe Ryan is a different case. MLB reported the decline of his mutual option, while he remains arbitration eligible. [16] He therefore belongs in the returning pitching plan and the arbitration estimate, not in the free-agent departure column. Counting both his $13 million option and his projected arbitration salary would charge the same roster spot twice.

The November 3 administrative snapshot contains 37 named major-league roster players after removing Banda's lagging entry. The fresh roster has cleared the earlier administrative 60-day injured-list designations; the separate recovery conditions remain. This is an organizational membership snapshot, not a declaration that 37 players are healthy, occupy identical roster categories or can all make an Opening Day roster. The full register appears later in the report.

Alex Jackson remains listed with St. Paul after being outrighted. He is not on the major-league roster, and his future minor-league contract status needs to be resolved before assigning him a guaranteed 2027 job. James Outman and Simeon Woods Richardson left the organization during 2026. Justin Topa also left. The Cubs claimed Eric Orze on November 2. He receives no returning Minnesota innings in this plan. Jack Anderson is on the current Mets roster. [4,11]

This distinction matters most in the bullpen. Minnesota cannot solve its walk problem by returning a fictional version of the staff that includes every reliever who appeared at any point in 2026. The retained pitchers, the available alternatives and the unfilled innings must each be identified separately.

ANALYSIS / 04

The hitters: useful production, uneven protection

Player / MLB ID	PA	AVG / OBP / SLG	HR	BB / K; context
Josh Bell / 605137	631	.255 / .319 / .419	21	52 / 124; Departed FA
Brooks Lee / 686797	631	.253 / .300 / .428	24	37 / 102; Primary 3B
Luke Keaschall / 807712	620	.282 / .374 / .407	10	59 / 87; 2B / OF; DH option
Kody Clemens / 665019	583	.239 / .298 / .460	27	39 / 127; 2B / 1B
Royce Lewis / 668904	509	.227 / .287 / .380	15	38 / 130; Mostly 1B
Trevor Larnach / 663616	433	.269 / .352 / .436	13	45 / 79; LF
Byron Buxton / 621439	408	.254 / .319 / .511	25	30 / 100; CF; return contingent
Victor Caratini / 605170	382	.220 / .312 / .315	7	34 / 80; C / 1B

Player / MLB ID	PA	AVG / OBP / SLG	HR	BB / K; context
Ryan Jeffers / 680777	369	.256 / .353 / .461	14	46 / 66; FA; QO pending
Austin Martin / 668885	358	.228 / .341 / .315	3	45 / 68; OF / utility
Ryan Kreidler / 668952	267	.218 / .286 / .379	8	21 / 61; SS / utility
Matt Wallner / 670242	135	.167 / .259 / .292	4	10 / 53; RF
Kaelen Culpepper / 701785	128	.274 / .328 / .393	3	6 / 28; SS audition
Alan Roden / 702176	94	.291 / .376 / .392	1	12 / 12; OF
Walker Jenkins / 805805	93	.226 / .293 / .393	4	7 / 19; OF audition
Emmanuel Rodriguez / 691181	48	.178 / .229 / .400	2	3 / 16; Small MLB sample

Keaschall's .374 on-base percentage and Clemens' 27 home runs give Minnesota two different ways to sustain an inning. Buxton supplied 25 home runs in 408 plate appearances. Jeffers produced an .814 OPS in 369. These are productive pieces around which to organize a lineup, provided the plan distinguishes performance from health and contract status. [1]

Bell's departure removes 631 plate appearances, 21 home runs and a .738 OPS. The response need not be a like-for-like designated-hitter purchase. Minnesota has several hitters whose offensive usefulness exceeds their defensive value. Reallocating the DH work can keep those bats available while improving the fielding alignment.

Lewis is the more difficult decision. His .227/.287/.380 line is inadequate for a player receiving most of his defensive work at first base. Retaining him is a bet that the bat can improve enough to justify the role, not an argument that former prospect status should determine the lineup. The plan gives him an opportunity while retaining alternatives at first and third.

Lee's 24 home runs and .728 OPS supplied real offense. His expected contact results were less convincing. Minnesota should not assume that his 2026 slugging percentage is now a floor, especially against left-handed pitching. The useful response is a more deliberate matchup plan, not an unsupported promise of either collapse or automatic improvement.

ANALYSIS / 05

Expected statistics sharpen the questions

Batter	wOBA	xwOBA	SLG / xSLG	Implication
Brooks Lee	0.316	0.281	0.428 / 0.358	Large contact-quality gap; protect difficult matchups
Luke Keaschall	0.348	0.322	0.407 / 0.369	On-base foundation; do not repeat every result
Kody Clemens	0.327	0.334	0.460 / 0.456	Power has contact-quality support
Royce Lewis	0.292	0.306	0.380 / 0.397	Some rebound room, not a restored middle-order bat
Trevor Larnach	0.347	0.327	0.436 / 0.394	Good season; more modest expected output
Byron Buxton	0.355	0.343	0.511 / 0.488	Power supported, availability remains separate
Ryan Jeffers	0.353	0.344	0.461 / 0.430	Offense has value beyond a one-year batting average
Victor Caratini	0.285	0.306	0.315 / 0.356	Expected output better than actual, still limited power
Matt Wallner	0.253	0.281	0.292 / 0.333	135 PA are insufficient for a permanent verdict
Kaelen Culpepper	0.320	0.287	0.393 / 0.351	128 PA require patience
Walker Jenkins	0.303	0.310	0.393 / 0.394	93 PA do not settle the MLB job
Emmanuel Rodriguez	0.270	0.354	0.400 / 0.534	48 PA are not a projection

Lee's .316 wOBA exceeded his .281 expected wOBA, and his .428 slugging percentage exceeded an expected .358. That is a substantial difference. It does not invalidate the hits or home runs he produced. It makes repeating the same offensive line less comfortable as the central assumption of the next roster. [5]

Keaschall also finished above his expected contact output, but the broader offensive foundation is stronger: he walked 59 times and struck out 87 in 620 plate appearances. The recommendation is to preserve that on-base value while reducing the defensive work that made his overall contribution more complicated.

Clemens' power is better supported by the contact-quality screen. His actual .460 slugging and expected .456 were close. That makes him a more defensible source of retained power than a simple comparison of home-run totals would reveal. His limitations against left-handers still matter when assigning everyday work.

Lewis' expected line was somewhat better than the actual result, but a .306 expected wOBA and .397 expected slugging do not establish an impact first baseman. A rebound can be plausible without being large enough to solve the position. The club should set an offensive standard for the job and retain the ability to change the allocation.

The smallest samples deserve the least certainty. Jenkins had 93 major-league plate appearances, Culpepper 128 and Emmanuel Rodriguez 48. Their minor-league records inform the next opportunity. None has already demonstrated a full season of major-league production.

ANALYSIS / 06

Stop giving every hitter the same matchup

Batter / scope	Against LHP: PA / OPS	Against RHP: PA / OPS
Brooks Lee	207 / .579	424 / .800
Luke Keaschall	202 / .742	418 / .800
Kody Clemens	163 / .679	420 / .789
Royce Lewis	146 / .738	363 / .638
Trevor Larnach	55 / .572	378 / .819
Byron Buxton	115 / .741	293 / .864
Ryan Jeffers	139 / .802	230 / .820
Victor Caratini	126 / .544	256 / .667
Austin Martin	177 / .736	181 / .582
Matt Wallner	47 / .496	88 / .581
Kaelen Culpepper	49 / .749	79 / .704
Carson Kelly / external	136 / .871	289 / .638
Tyler Stephenson / external	117 / .655	351 / .748

Minnesota posted a .678 OPS against left-handed pitching and .739 against right-handers. Lee's own split was particularly large: .579 in 207 plate appearances against lefties and .800 in 424 against righties. Lewis went the other way, with .738 against left-handers and .638 against right-handers. [1,8]

That creates a practical, limited adjustment. Selected starts for Lewis at third against left-handers can reduce some of Lee's least productive exposure. Clemens can cover first on some of those days, while the DH and outfield choices depend on the rest of the matchup. The purpose is to improve particular lineup decisions, not to declare a permanent platoon solely from one season.

Clemens' .679 OPS against lefties and .789 against righties also argue for flexibility. Keaschall's .742 and .800 split is less extreme, making him a useful stabilizing presence. The bench should be assembled around the actual uncovered matchups rather than filled with additional players who all require the same favorable conditions.

Kelly's appeal as an alternative catcher includes an .871 OPS against left-handed pitching, compared with .638 against right-handers. That is a reason to pair and deploy him carefully. It is not a reason to project his lefty-facing result over 500 unrestricted plate appearances. Plan B gives him 350, with additional work assigned to Caratini and the reserve catcher.

ANALYSIS / 07

Put the defense where it can succeed

Fielder	2024 OAA	2025 OAA	2026 OAA	2026 tracked opportunities
Byron Buxton	+4	+3	+3	210
Luke Keaschall	No row	-2	-12	451
Kody Clemens	-1	+4	+1	444
Brooks Lee	-2	-4	0	453
Royce Lewis	+1	+1	-4	352
Trevor Larnach	+2	-4	-5	230
Austin Martin	-7	+1	+2	206
Ryan Kreidler	-1	0	+2	230
Matt Wallner	-3	-4	-4	92
Kaelen Culpepper	No row	No row	+1	103
Walker Jenkins	No row	No row	0	62
Emmanuel Rodriguez	No row	No row	+1	33

Keaschall's minus-12 Outs Above Average is the largest warning in this group. It covers his combined tracked defensive work, including second base and the outfield. It is not a minus-12 rating exclusively at second. Larnach finished at minus-5, Lewis and Wallner at minus-4 each. Those costs must be weighed against the offense each player supplies. [7,9]

Buxton's plus-3 came in 210 tracked opportunities, following plus-3 in 2025 and plus-4 in 2024. The recent range evidence supports keeping him in center when available. His availability is a separate question. A good fielder who cannot cover the entire season still needs a specific replacement plan.

Lee's zero in 2026 followed minus-2 and minus-4 in the two prior seasons. Culpepper's plus-1 came in only 103 tracked opportunities. Kreidler's plus-2 came in 230. These are reasons to test a more stable left side, not enough evidence to award a large projected defensive gain in advance.

A reasonable planning test is whether the proposed alignment can recover roughly five to ten runs through reduced exposure and better deployment. That range is an S&S target, not a model projection. It is deliberately smaller than erasing every negative OAA value, because replacements also make mistakes, the position mix changes and year-to-year measurement varies. No such gain is separately added to the run scenarios later in the report.

Player	2026 Minnesota defensive innings	Proposed change
Luke Keaschall	CF 210.2; RF 451.2; 2B 636.1	Reduce defensive exposure; expand DH, remove routine CF duty
Kody Clemens	1B 366.1; LF 88.0; CF 49.1; 2B 576.1; RF 132.1	Primary 2B; selective 1B

Player	2026 Minnesota defensive innings	Proposed change
Brooks Lee	SS 400.0; 3B 939.2	Retain primary 3B; limited SS
Royce Lewis	1B 684.0; 2B 107.1; 3B 306.0	1B first, with selected 3B matchups
Kaelen Culpepper	SS 281.0	Earn primary SS; Kreidler is real competition
Byron Buxton	CF 597.2	Conditional CF work with scheduled DH coverage
Walker Jenkins	CF 211.2	Share CF coverage; no assumed full-season production
Trevor Larnach	LF 809.1	LF/DH, with late defensive replacement
Austin Martin	CF 47.0; RF 363.2; LF 324.2	OF coverage and limited 2B
Matt Wallner	RF 284.0	RF/DH trial, not a guaranteed everyday job

The central change uses Bell's vacant DH work to reduce Keaschall's fielding volume. It also removes routine center-field assignments from Keaschall, distributes that work among Buxton, Jenkins and Martin, and preserves late-game defensive choices behind Larnach and Wallner. These are choices the existing roster can test before purchasing another position player.

ANALYSIS / 08

Catching is a real purchase decision

Catcher / full MLB season	Catching run value	Framing / throwing / blocking / ABS
Ryan Jeffers	-2.2	-1.3 / -3.8 / +0.1 / +2.8
Victor Caratini	+1.9	+2.7 / -3.9 / +0.9 / +2.2
Carson Kelly	-1.0	+1.0 / -2.7 / +1.6 / -0.9
Tyler Stephenson	-8.4	-9.7 / -2.2 / +3.1 / +0.4

Jeffers' offensive production is the principal reason to retain him. The defensive table does not support selling him as an across-the-board receiving upgrade. His total catching run value was minus-2.2, with negative throwing and framing components offset in part by positive ABS value. Caratini finished at plus-1.9 overall. [10]

Kelly's total was minus-1.0, while Stephenson's was minus-8.4, driven largely by a negative framing result. The different components explain why catcher selection cannot be reduced to one batting line. They also prevent the common error of adding framing, throwing, blocking and ABS values to a total that already includes them.

Jeffers has until November 17 to answer the $23.15 million qualifying offer. [17] The offer is a real conditional obligation. If accepted, the Twins cannot treat the cost as optional merely because another catcher later appears cheaper. If declined, Minnesota can pursue another agreement or move to the alternative, with the consequences shown explicitly.

The strongest objection to retaining Jeffers is the opportunity cost. More than $23 million for one catcher could fund substantial pitching work, and the club has catching prospects. The answer is not to dismiss those

prospects. It is to compare their present readiness with the work being vacated. Lackey has 52 High-A plate appearances. Tait has not reached Triple-A. A prospect's eventual upside does not supply April major-league catching innings. [12]

ANALYSIS / 09

The rotation needs coverage before another headline

Pitcher / MLB ID	GS / MIN IP	ERA / xERA*	K / BB / HR	Context
Taj Bradley / 671737	31 / 178.1	3.73 / 3.98	205 / 76 / 23	Largest completed workload
Joe Ryan / 657746	27 / 144.2	3.79 / 3.70	159 / 31 / 21	Arbitration retained; option decline reported
Bailey Ober / 641927	24 / 131.0	4.47 / 4.66	96 / 37 / 21	Contact and HR exposure
Dean Kremer / 665152	10 / 54.1	3.48 / 4.15	48 / 18 / 6	MIN stint only; full MLB xERA
Connor Prielipp / 687570	22 / 125.2	4.87 / 3.95	128 / 44 / 14	Expected contact result stronger than actual ERA
Zebby Matthews / 805673	23 / 130.1	4.90 / 4.38	116 / 39 / 24	Home-run reduction needed
Andrew Morris / 702193	3 / 73.2	4.40 / 3.35	69 / 27 / 5	Starter/bulk flexibility
Kendry Rojas / 696070	4 / 29.2	3.34 / 3.47	34 / 22 / 2	Small MLB sample; command risk

Bradley supplied 178 1/3 innings, Ryan 144 2/3, Ober 131, Matthews 130 1/3 and Prielipp 125 2/3. Those five form a substantial workload base. Kremer adds another established candidate, but his 54 1/3 Minnesota innings were only part of a 90 1/3-inning major-league season. His full-year ERA was 4.68, compared with 3.48 after the trade. [1,11]

Ryan's 159 strikeouts and 31 walks make him especially important to the command objective. Bradley's 205 strikeouts give the rotation a different strength, although 76 walks limit how comfortable that workload was. The club should retain both jobs rather than create a new rotation vacancy to make a payroll total look smaller.

Prielipp's 4.87 ERA and 3.95 expected ERA suggest that contact outcomes were less discouraging than the actual run total. That is a reason to continue the development work. Matthews' 24 home runs in 130 1/3 innings and Ober's 21 in 131 show where improved strike throwing alone will not be enough. Location and contact management matter as well.

The plan does not purchase a starter simply because other dossiers did. Minnesota has six candidates for five rotation jobs and a substantial salary committed to Lopez. Its more immediate purchased need is in relief. That decision changes if the spring availability picture removes several starters, in which case the reserve and the payroll ceiling have to be reconsidered together.

ANALYSIS / 10

Salary does not establish medical availability

Lopez, Festa, Abel, Paredes and Sands have cleared the administrative 60-day IL listings, but their recovery conditions and return dates remain separate. [4] This plan assigns none of them a required opening workload. Lopez's $21.75 million remains in the budget. Removing his innings from the baseline does not remove his contract.

Hoffman and Buxton also require return checks before the proposed workloads can be adopted. [19] Their allocations are conditional, and the plan carries replacement branches rather than assuming medical clearance. A preseason report that a player is progressing does not by itself establish how many games or innings he can handle.

If Lopez becomes available, he can displace part of the starting and bulk workload assigned to the depth group. His innings would replace other innings, not be added on top of a complete 1,440-inning staff. The same rule applies to the other injured pitchers. Their eventual returns would improve the quality and flexibility of the coverage, but they are not counted twice as both rehabilitation upside and baseline depth.

If Buxton is unavailable, Jenkins and Martin absorb more center-field responsibility, while Roden and Emmanuel Rodriguez take more corner work. That preserves a positional map without pretending the replacement offense equals Buxton's. A club that wants a stronger fallback must fund and identify it separately.

ANALYSIS / 11

The bullpen's central weakness is measurable

Pitcher	MIN IP	ERA / full MLB xERA	K / BB	2027 treatment
Jeff Hoffman	18.0	2.50 / 3.35	27 / 12	Retained; availability gate
Yoendrys Gómez	49.2	3.62 / 5.51	52 / 29	Retained; ERA overstates contact-quality comfort
Travis Adams	59.0	4.58 / 4.18	62 / 25	Retained; improve strike throwing
Kody Funderburk	51.0	3.71 / 3.73	49 / 27	Retained; walk reduction needed
Tommy Nance	26.2	4.05 / 4.45	34 / 11	Retained; middle innings
Garrett Acton	11.0	5.73 / 4.27	14 / 6	Retained; small sample
Marco Raya	6.0	3.00 / 5.02	4 / 3	Retained; depth
A.J. Minter	22.2	2.78 / 3.84	21 / 6	Departed FA; retention alternative
Taylor Rogers	60.1	4.33 / 4.12	54 / 31	Departed FA; not funded

Pitcher	MIN IP	ERA / full MLB xERA	K / BB	2027 treatment
Anthony Banda	34.1	4.46 / 4.51	33 / 15	Departed FA after outright
Eric Orze	41.1	5.66 / 4.15	36 / 21	Historical MIN work; no 2027 allocation

Minnesota's relievers walked approximately 4.52 batters per nine innings. Its starters walked approximately 3.04. The bullpen's 4.74 ERA reflects a staff that too often had to escape innings after supplying baserunners without requiring a hit. Buying another pitcher solely on the strength of saves or a low ERA can leave that mechanism unchanged. [1]

Gomez illustrates the distinction. His Minnesota ERA was 3.62, but he walked 29 in 49 2/3 innings and finished with a full-season 5.51 expected ERA. He can remain useful. He should not be treated as a guaranteed late-inning answer whose result will repeat independent of the walks and contact.

Hoffman provides strikeouts: 102 in 66 innings across Toronto and Minnesota. His 18-inning Twins sample had 27 strikeouts but also 12 walks. A complete assessment keeps the full-year record and the smaller local sample visible. It does not assume that his 2.50 Minnesota ERA describes every future appearance.

Adams and Funderburk also have returning roles, but neither eliminates the command need. Adams walked 25 in 59 innings; Funderburk walked 27 in 51. If the same pitchers receive more innings without changing those rates, the lower-cost plan can reproduce the problem the club is trying to solve.

ANALYSIS / 12

Two relief inquiries, with limits

Candidate / MLB ID	Full 2026 MLB evidence	S&S ceiling / decision
Ryan Jeffers / 680777	369 PA, .814 OPS, 14 HR; 0.353/0.344 wOBA/xwOBA	Existing QO: $23.15M for one year; acceptance pending
Carson Kelly / 608348	425 PA, .712 OPS, 10 HR; 0.320/0.311 wOBA/xwOBA	Alternative: 2 years / $16-20M
Tyler Stephenson / 663886	468 PA, .727 OPS, 15 HR; 0.320/0.326 wOBA/xwOBA	Pass as preferred receiving solution
Steven Okert / 595345	67.2 IP, 2.13 ERA, 3.13 xERA; 68 K / 14 BB	Preferred LHP inquiry: 2 years / $16-20M
Andrew Kittredge / 552640	48.1 IP, 3.54 ERA, 4.01 xERA; 40 K / 11 BB	RHP command inquiry: 1 year / $5-7M
A.J. Minter / 621345	45.2 IP, 2.56 ERA, 3.84 xERA; 41 K / 8 BB	Retention alternative: 2 years / $14-18M
Tyler Alexander / 641302	73.0 IP, 3.70 ERA, 3.35 xERA; 60 K / 23 BB	Bulk alternative: 1 year / $4-6M
Sean Newcomb / 656794	90.1 IP, 3.09 ERA, 4.27 xERA; 84 K / 34 BB	Alternative, not preferred command purchase
Hoby Milner / 571948	42.0 IP, 3.64 ERA, 5.09 xERA; 25 K / 10 BB	Pass at impact-reliever pricing
Shawn Armstrong / 542888	35.1 IP, 4.58 ERA, 4.21 xERA; 34 K / 19 BB	Pass as command solution

Candidate / MLB ID	Full 2026 MLB evidence	S&S ceiling / decision
Taylor Rogers / 573124	60.1 IP, 4.33 ERA, 4.12 xERA; 54 K / 31 BB	Pass as principal command purchase

Okert walked 14 batters in 67 2/3 innings for Houston, with a 2.13 ERA and 3.13 expected ERA. That is approximately 1.86 walks per nine. His 2025 record also supports the command case: 19 walks in 71 2/3 innings. His 2024 performance was much weaker, with a 5.09 ERA in 35 1/3 innings. The recommendation reflects the two more recent seasons while retaining that downside. [6,11]

At two years and $16-20 million, the proposed purchase is 60 innings of left-handed leverage and middle relief, not a promise of another 2.13 ERA. Those innings reduce the burden on the existing high-walk options. If the bidding exceeds the ceiling or the health review fails, Minter is a distinct retention alternative, with a proposed two-year limit of $14-18 million.

Minter walked eight in 45 2/3 major-league innings in 2026. His nine home runs and 3.84 expected ERA complicate the attractive 2.56 actual ERA. He also had only 11 major-league innings in 2025. The club would be purchasing a different availability and contact-risk profile, not obtaining Okert under another name.

Kittredge's 11 walks in 48 1/3 innings supply the right-handed complement. He will turn 37 before the 2027 season, and his 4.01 expected ERA was above his 3.54 actual ERA. That supports a one-year inquiry at $5-7 million rather than a long commitment. The workload is 50 innings, close to what he completed, with no automatic closer designation.

Tyler Alexander is the alternative when the uncovered job is bulk rather than leverage. He supplied 73 innings with a 3.70 ERA and 3.35 expected ERA, but his two prior major-league ERAs were 5.10 and 4.98. A one-year $4-6 million ceiling buys flexible coverage with regression risk. It should not be described as the same job as Kittredge's or as a substitute for every late-inning need.

Milner's 3.64 ERA came with a 5.09 expected ERA and 25 strikeouts in 42 innings. Armstrong walked 19 in 35 1/3. Rogers walked 31 in 60 1/3. Newcomb offers more length, but 34 walks in 90 1/3 innings and a 4.27 expected ERA make him a less direct answer to the particular command purchase proposed here. These are reasons to distinguish the candidates, not declarations that none can help a major-league club.

ANALYSIS / 13

The young players need jobs, not honorary roster spots

Player / MLB ID	2026 level and sample	Readiness decision
Walker Jenkins / 805805	AAA: 307 PA, .939 OPS, 12 HR, 42 BB / 48 K	Meaningful AAA evidence; conditional CF/RF work
Kaelen Culpepper / 701785	AAA: 343 PA, .845 OPS, 14 HR, 39 BB / 63 K	Primary SS audition; MLB defense and contact must hold
Emmanuel Rodriguez / 691181	AAA: 220 PA, .914 OPS, 11 HR, 42 BB / 58 K	On-base/power promise; smaller healthy sample
Hendry Mendez / 694230	AAA: 335 PA, .788 OPS, 8 HR, 44 BB / 53 K	Useful depth, not assumed impact

Player / MLB ID	2026 level and sample	Readiness decision
Gabriel Gonzalez / 694224	AAA: 480 PA, .745 OPS, 16 HR, 38 BB / 82 K	Larger sample; compete for OF role
Marek Houston / 701339	AA: 286 PA, .829 OPS, 7 HR, 29 BB / 59 K	AA progress; no automatic April MLB PA
Vahn Lackey / 822518	A+: 52 PA, 1.000 OPS, 2 HR, 14 BB / 8 K	52 high-A PA; not the 2027 catching solution
Eduardo Tait / 806953	A+: 520 PA, .699 OPS, 22 HR, 35 BB / 119 K	Power with contact development still required
Noah Cardenas / 681433	AAA: 275 PA, .727 OPS, 13 HR, 39 BB / 69 K	Non-roster catching alternative; no MLB track record
Alex Jackson / 656577	AAA: 95 PA, .806 OPS, 7 HR, 6 BB / 31 K	Non-roster depth; future contract rights require recheck
Ricardo Olivar / 691627	AA: 137 PA, .978 OPS, 10 HR, 16 BB / 26 K	Injured-list status and limited upper-level sample
Kendry Rojas / 696070	AAA: 38.0 IP, 2.84 ERA, 38 K / 12 BB	Rotation/bulk competition
Mike Paredes / 702474	AAA: 34.2 IP, 3.38 ERA, 33 K / 8 BB	Health gate; no opening allocation
Marco Raya / 694397	AAA: 64.1 IP, 5.32 ERA, 73 K / 24 BB	Relief depth; command must improve
Charlee Soto / 805792	A: 2.2 IP, 16.88 ERA, 3 K / 1 BB	2.2 innings do not justify MLB allocation

Jenkins' .939 OPS in 307 Triple-A plate appearances and Culpepper's .845 in 343 are meaningful upper-level records. They justify substantial competitions for center-field and shortstop work. The major-league samples remain small enough that Minnesota needs alternatives at both positions. Kreidler and Martin are part of that coverage, not merely names at the bottom of the depth chart. [12]

Emmanuel Rodriguez reached a .914 OPS in 220 Triple-A plate appearances. Hendry Mendez and Gabriel Gonzalez offer additional outfield depth with different recent samples and results. Giving all of them everyday major-league jobs would require more positions than the field contains. The season-long plate-appearance budget instead leaves room for readiness, injury replacement and performance-based changes.

Noah Cardenas is the most concrete internal catcher trial in the lower-cost branch: 275 Triple-A plate appearances, a .727 OPS, 13 home runs, 39 walks and 69 strikeouts. He has no established major-league catching record. Selecting his contract would require a roster move. A 270-plate-appearance assignment in Plan C is therefore a serious developmental and competitive risk, not free replacement production.

Lackey's combined early professional work is encouraging but distant from the job being priced. Tait's 22 High-A home runs came with a .699 OPS and 119 strikeouts in 520 plate appearances. Olivar's strong Double-A showing is accompanied by a short Triple-A sample and an injured-list designation. None should be rushed merely to avoid paying for the immediate catcher vacancy.

ANALYSIS / 14

Repeated targets must survive a different comparison

Jeffers appears in the earlier Yankees and Marlins analyses, but the jobs differ. New York's dated inquiry was a catching complement alongside Wells. Miami's was support around Mack. Minnesota is evaluating retention of its own established offensive catcher. Here the alternative is a larger Caratini role and an unproven internal reserve, or the explicitly priced Kelly purchase. The 430-plate-appearance allocation and existing qualifying offer determine this club's cost discussion. [20]

Kelly also appeared as a conditional alternative in the Yankees work. The new Minnesota proposal is a 350-plate-appearance role, weighted toward his stronger recent left-handed-pitching matchups, with Caratini carrying additional work. The $16-20 million two-year ceiling is an S&S valuation of that defined role. It is not evidence of an asking price or permission to assign the same free agent to several clubs at once.

Okert was a relief alternative in both earlier dossiers. Minnesota's 60-inning proposal displaces additional work that would otherwise fall to Morris, Rojas, Nance, Adams, Funderburk, Acton and Raya. That identifies the marginal benefit more clearly than comparing his ERA with a departed reliever's ERA. Kittredge supplies a separate 50-inning right-handed job; Alexander is a bulk alternative. Minter is a retention alternative with different health and home-run evidence.

No outgoing prospect package is assumed for these free-agent inquiries. There is therefore no invented trade return to subtract, but there are real costs: dollars, roster spots, reduced developmental innings and any applicable acquisition conditions. The Twins' own qualifying-offer position is accounted for separately. Any target whose status changes before negotiations requires a new transaction analysis.

The earlier Yankees and Marlins editions retain their October research and roster dates, with November acquisition amendments. They are not current availability lists. The present recommendation uses November 3 identities and transactions while preserving what those earlier comparisons actually said.

ANALYSIS / 15

Build the budget from its components

Player	2027 allocation, $M	Basis
Pablo Lopez	21.75	Salary retained; zero guaranteed return innings
Byron Buxton	15.142857	Listed annual salary allocation
Jeff Hoffman	12.666667	Gross listed salary; separate bonus/trade offsets below
Victor Caratini	6.5	2027 contract year
TOTAL	56.059524	Before the separate listed offsets

Player	Estimate, $M	Basis
Dean Kremer	6.50	Published projection; not signed salary
Bailey Ober	6.90	Published projection; not signed salary
Joe Ryan	9.60	Published projection; not signed salary
Trevor Larnach	6.30	Published projection; not signed salary
Royce Lewis	5.10	Published projection; not signed salary
Cole Sands	1.30	Published projection; not signed salary
Tommy Nance	1.20	Published projection; not signed salary
Kody Clemens	3.60	Published projection; not signed salary
Taj Bradley	4.50	Published projection; not signed salary
TOTAL	45.00	Nine retained cases; Banda removed, Ryan included once

Component	Annual allocation	Definition
Four contracts	$56.059524M	Gross salary columns; offsets below
Arbitration pool	$45.00M	Nine estimates; no assumed non-tender savings
Correa obligations	$11.333333M	$10M trade obligation plus $1.333333M signing-bonus line
Hoffman adjustments	-$5.416667M	-$1.666667M signing-bonus adjustment; -$3.75M Toronto support
Listed 2027 buyouts	$1.60M	Bell $1.25M; Ryan $0.1M; Topa $0.25M including escalator
Pre-arb, minors and callups	$12-16M	S&S allowance including minor-league 40-man salaries
Existing-roster envelope	$120.58-124.58M	Before catcher retention, external additions and depth reserve

The four salary lines total $56.059524 million before the separate adjustments. The nine retained arbitration estimates total $45 million. Ryan appears once in that pool; Banda's projected $2.3 million is removed after his departure. No additional savings are assumed from non-tendering or trading another returning player. [13,14]

The Correa and Hoffman lines require particular care. This model retains the listed $10 million Correa trade obligation and $1.333333 million signing-bonus allocation. It applies the separate negative $1.666667 million Hoffman bonus adjustment and $3.75 million Toronto contribution. The resulting net is $5.916666 million. These entries describe the chosen annual allocation basis, not a reconstruction of every cash payment date.

The listed 2027 buyouts total $1.6 million, including the Topa escalator. They are retained conservatively because payment timing has not been reconciled to club cash records. A later accounting confirmation could move a timing item; it cannot justify silently omitting an obligation today. Caratini's later-year option buyout is not treated as a 2027 operating purchase.

The $12-16 million pre-arbitration, minor-league and callup allowance includes the smaller roster salaries. Benefits, the separate pre-arbitration bonus pool, competitive-balance-tax accounting, draft and international spending, staff costs and unverified obligations are excluded. This is a baseball roster allocation, not the owner's full annual cash requirement or a CBT forecast.

ANALYSIS / 16

Three paths, and the qualifying-offer branch

Plan	Annual additions	Total allocation	New commitment*
A: Jeffers QO + two relievers	$41.15-47.15M	$161.73-171.73M	$49.15-57.15M
B: Kelly + two relievers	$26.00-34.00M	$146.58-158.58M	$42.00-54.00M
C: Internal roster; QO declined	$5.00-7.00M	$125.58-131.58M	$5.00-7.00M

Plan A adds Jeffers' one-year $23.15 million qualifying-offer amount, $8-10 million annually for Okert, $5-7 million for Kittredge and a $5-7 million reserve. The total annual addition is $41.15-47.15 million. The multi-year commitment column includes both years of Okert's proposed deal, with the other stated components counted once.

Plan B substitutes Kelly at $8-10 million annually on a two-year agreement. It therefore adds $26-34 million annually, with $42-54 million of combined proposed commitment and reserved capacity across the stated terms. That branch is available only if the Jeffers obligation is not incurred or is otherwise replaced through an actual agreement. The model never buys both catchers while charging for only one.

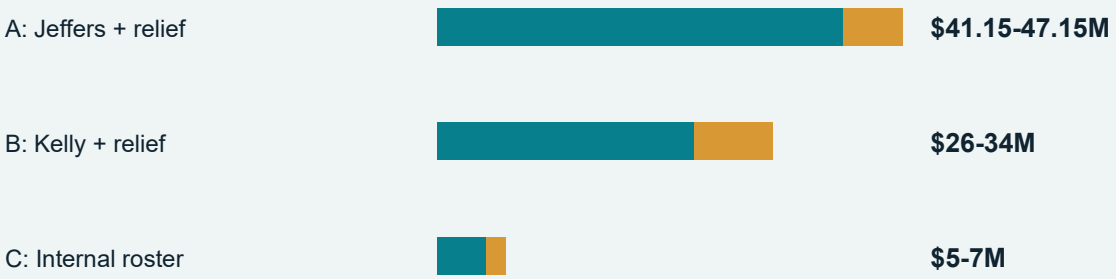
Plan C adds only the $5-7 million reserve, for $125.58-131.58 million on the same allocation basis. The reserve is capacity for identified depth needs, not a player whose performance has been assumed. The no-acquisition branch deliberately shows a weaker internal roster so that declining a purchase remains a baseball decision with consequences.

Decision	Cost change	Workload consequence
Jeffers accepts	$23.15M obligation	Retain catcher; C cannot simply delete his salary
Jeffers rejects; no reunion	$0 in base; activate alternative	B uses Kelly; C shifts to Caratini/Cardenas
Jeffers accepts; no external relief	$148.73-154.73M total	QO plus $5-7M reserve; internal relief inherits 110 IP

Decision	Cost change	Workload consequence
Long-term Jeffers agreement	Not priced or assumed here	Rebuild commitments and workloads before choosing it

If Jeffers accepts but the club does not purchase either reliever, the total becomes approximately $148.73-154.73 million, including the reserve. The catching plan then retains Jeffers while the bullpen takes the internal 110-inning replacement burden. This branch prevents the qualifying offer from disappearing inside an artificially cheap fallback.

THREE DIFFERENT WINTER COMMITMENTS



S&S annual additions. Each includes a $5-7M depth reserve.

Jeffers acceptance is conditional. See the separate qualifying-offer branch.

ANALYSIS / 17

Account for all 6,200 plate appearances

Player / role	PA	Opportunity
Keaschall	630	Primary DH/selected RF and 2B
Lee	600	Primary 3B; selective SS
Clemens	540	Primary 2B; selective 1B
Lewis	470	1B; selected 3B and DH
Larnach	450	LF/DH
Buxton	430	CF/DH; return contingent
Jeffers	430	C/DH; QO acceptance or separate agreement
Caratini	310	C/1B
Culpepper	430	Primary SS audition
Jenkins	400	CF/RF audition
Martin	350	OF/2B coverage
Wallner	240	RF/DH trial
Emmanuel Rodriguez	220	OF; readiness dependent
Roden	220	OF depth
Kreidler	180	SS/3B/2B coverage
Hendry Mendez	80	OF depth
Gabriel Gonzalez	80	OF depth
Cardenas	40	C depth; 40-man selection needed
Ben Ross	30	IF depth
Other coverage	70	Injuries and roster changes
TOTAL	6,200	Season coverage, not 20 simultaneous roster spots

The allocation is a season-long planning framework, not an Opening Day roster prediction. It includes injuries, minor-league promotions and replacement work. A hitter's opportunity depends on the relevant health, defensive and offensive tests. The total does not assume that every listed player occupies a major-league roster spot simultaneously.

Keaschall receives the largest share, with the DH opening helping preserve his offense while reducing fielding exposure. Lee, Clemens and Lewis retain meaningful work but no absolute claim to every matchup. Jenkins and Culpepper receive real opportunities, with enough coverage behind them to avoid turning development into an ultimatum.

Change from Plan A	PA adjustment	Result
Plan B: Jeffers to Kelly	-430 / +350	Kelly has 350 PA; target favorable matchups
Plan B: Caratini / Cardenas	+60 / +20	370 / 60 PA; net zero change
Plan C: remove Jeffers	-430	No unbought catcher production
Plan C: Caratini / Cardenas	+200 / +230	510 / 270 PA; substantial workload and readiness risk
TOTAL	6,200 in each plan	No catcher counted twice

Plan B's Kelly allocation is smaller than Jeffers', with the remaining work divided between Caratini and Cardenas. Plan C asks Caratini for 510 plate appearances and Cardenas for 270. That is a substantial increase for both and the clearest weakness in the cheapest plan. The numbers make the missing purchase visible instead of crediting the lineup with Jeffers' production after removing his salary.

ANALYSIS / 18

Account for every position

Pos.	Proposed 162-start allocation	Purpose
C	Jeffers 95; Caratini 60; Cardenas 7	Plan A only; separate alternative catcher map
1B	Lewis 105; Clemens 32; Caratini 25	Make Lewis earn the largest share
2B	Clemens 110; Keaschall 35; Martin 17	Reduce Keaschall defensive volume
3B	Lee 135; Lewis 20; Kreidler 7	Retain Lee at the position he actually played
SS	Culpepper 110; Kreidler 37; Lee 15	Readiness-dependent shortstop competition
LF	Larnach 100; Martin 30; E. Rodriguez 20; Mendez 12	Planned coverage and late defense
CF	Buxton 75; Jenkins 65; Martin 22	Shared coverage; no routine Keaschall CF allocation
RF	Keaschall 60; Wallner 50; Roden 20; E. Rodriguez 20; Gonzalez 12	Conditional opportunity, not four everyday jobs
DH	Keaschall 50; Larnach 40; Buxton 25; Lewis 5; Jeffers 10; Caratini 3; Other coverage 29	Use Bell departure to reduce fielding exposure

Each line totals 162 starts. This is a coverage test rather than a rigid calendar. Substitutions, injuries and performance will change the actual distribution. The DH coverage also allows the club to manage players whose bats remain useful when their defensive workload needs to decline.

Plan B changes the catcher line to approximately 80 Kelly starts, 70 Caratini starts and 12 for the reserve. Plan C requires roughly 100 Caratini starts and 62 from Cardenas or a genuinely established replacement. The latter is an especially demanding assumption for a player without a major-league record, which is why the cheapest branch is not the preferred competitive plan.

If Culpepper does not earn shortstop, Kreidler takes more of that work and Lee provides selected coverage. If Jenkins is not ready for the proposed center-field load, Martin's role expands. Those substitutions keep positions filled but do not guarantee the same offense. A meaningful upgrade requires a comparison with the

actual replacement, not merely a more attractive name on paper.

ANALYSIS / 19

Account for all 162 starts and 1,440 innings

Pitcher / coverage	Starts / IP	Workload test
Bradley	30 / 170	Below 178.1 completed IP
Ryan	29 / 160	15.1 IP above 2026; contingent durability
Ober	25 / 135	Near 2026 work; contact improvement needed
Kremer	24 / 130	Full-year role, not extrapolation from 54.1 MIN IP
Prielipp	23 / 120	Slightly below 2026 workload
Matthews	20 / 100	Additional 35 relief IP; 135 total
Morris	4 / 20	Additional 55 relief IP; 75 total
Rojas	4 / 20	Additional 40 relief IP; 60 total
Other healthy depth	3 / 15	No promised Lopez/Festa/Abel/Paredes return
TOTAL	162 / 870	Six primary candidates plus depth; not six simultaneous rotation slots

The starting plan uses 870 innings. It asks Ryan for about 15 more innings than he completed in 2026 and Kremer for about 40 more than his full major-league total. Those are real workload assumptions. Bradley, Prielipp and the other established candidates provide the remainder, with Morris and Rojas serving as flexible coverage rather than being counted twice as full-time starters and full-time relievers.

Pitcher / coverage	IP	Workload test
Hoffman	55	Return contingent; below full 66-IP 2026 total
Okert	60	Only if acquired; below 67.2-IP 2026 total
Kittredge	50	Only if acquired; near 48.1-IP 2026 total
Gomez	50	Command and contact risk; not guaranteed closer
Adams	55	Near prior workload
Funderburk	45	Below prior workload
Morris	55	Additional to 20 starter IP
Nance	35	Middle innings; full-year availability needed
Rojas	40	Additional to 20 starter IP
Matthews	35	Additional to 100 starter IP
Acton	30	Larger MLB role must be earned

Pitcher / coverage	IP	Workload test
Raya	25	Build from AAA relief work
Other healthy depth	35	No performance assigned to unspent reserve
TOTAL	570	870 starter + 570 relief = 1,440 innings

The 570 relief innings complete a 1,440-inning planning season. Matthews' 100 starter innings plus 35 in relief equal 135 overall. Morris' 20 plus 55 equal 75. Rojas' 20 plus 40 equal 60. These totals are checked together so that flexibility does not become fictitious capacity.

Hoffman's 55 innings remain conditional on readiness. If unavailable, the club has to transfer those innings to the reserve group or make a specific additional acquisition. The cost and expected performance of that response cannot be inferred from an unspent allowance. The same principle applies if multiple starters fail to reach their planned workloads.

ANALYSIS / 20

What happens without the relievers

Change from A/B	Relief IP change	Result
Okert / Kittredge	-60 / -50	No acquired innings credited
Morris / Rojas	+20 / +15	75 / 55 relief IP; starter work remains separate
Nance / Adams	+15 / +10	50 / 65 relief IP
Funderburk / Acton	+10 / +15	55 / 45 relief IP
Raya / other depth	+10 / +15	35 / 50 relief IP
NET	0	570 relief IP with greater internal command risk

The internal branch replaces 110 innings assigned to Okert and Kittredge. Morris and Rojas absorb 35 of them, Nance and Adams another 25, Funderburk and Acton 25, and Raya plus the remaining depth 25. The total still works arithmetically. The quality and reliability of the work are less certain.

Morris would reach 95 combined starter and relief innings. Rojas would reach 75. Adams would have 65 relief innings, Funderburk 55, Acton 45 and Raya 35. These are not impossible workloads, but several would require more major-league responsibility than the recent evidence establishes. More innings from pitchers with unresolved walk rates can be a false economy even when their salaries are low.

The no-acquisition outcome is therefore a legitimate developmental strategy, not a disguised version of Plan A. It preserves money and opportunities while accepting greater risk that the bullpen continues to undermine an otherwise productive lineup. Ownership can choose that direction, but the competitive expectation should change with it.

ANALYSIS / 21

How much improvement is actually needed

Illustrative change from 2026	RS / RA	Run margin	Simple run-ratio wins*
Unchanged runs	739 / 797	-58	74.9
Prevent 40; scoring unchanged	739 / 757	-18	79.1
Score 20 more; prevent 50	759 / 747	+12	82.3
Score 40 more; prevent 80	779 / 717	+62	87.7
Lose 25 runs; prevent only 20	714 / 777	-63	74.2

Preventing 40 runs with unchanged scoring would still leave Minnesota at a minus-18 differential. Adding 20 runs and preventing 50 would create a plus-12 margin, corresponding to roughly 82.3 wins in the simple runs-squared illustration. Even adding 40 while preventing 80 produces approximately 87.7, not an automatic 90-win team.

These are transparent scenarios, not forecasts or independent player-value totals. The defensive deployment target, the relief command objective and the young hitters' development all feed into the same runs scored and allowed. Adding their supposed gains again on top of the scenario would double count the improvement.

The strongest countercase is that Minnesota is too far away to justify the preferred spending level. If the club cannot fund both catcher stability and prevention, a smaller plan with development at its center may be more coherent than a partial spending spree. The response is to set explicit review points: catcher contract resolution, spring health, shortstop and center-field readiness, and whether the bullpen actually throws enough strikes to justify its assignments.

The recommended plan earns its price only if those tests remain favorable. The opportunity is to turn a useful offense into a team that gives fewer games away. The discipline is to recognize when the evidence no longer supports the expensive version of that opportunity.

ANALYSIS / 22

Current roster register and decision gates

Player / MLB ID	Position	November 3 status
Alan Roden / 702176	RF	Current major-league roster listing; role not guaranteed
Andrew Morris / 702193	P	Current major-league roster listing; role not guaranteed
Austin Martin / 668885	RF	Current major-league roster listing; role not guaranteed
Bailey Ober / 641927	P	Current major-league roster listing; role not guaranteed
Ben Ross / 805346	SS	Current major-league roster listing; role not guaranteed
Brooks Lee / 686797	3B	Current major-league roster listing; role not guaranteed
Byron Buxton / 621439	CF	Current major-league roster listing; role not guaranteed
Cole Sands / 663485	P	Active administrative roster; prior injury and return conditions remain
Connor Prielipp / 687570	P	Current major-league roster listing; role not guaranteed
David Festa / 701581	P	Active administrative roster; prior injury and return conditions remain
Dean Kremer / 665152	P	Current major-league roster listing; role not guaranteed
Emmanuel Rodriguez / 691181	CF	Current major-league roster listing; role not guaranteed
Gabriel Gonzalez / 694224	RF	Current major-league roster listing; role not guaranteed
Garrett Acton / 670183	P	Current major-league roster listing; role not guaranteed
Hendry Mendez / 694230	OF	Current major-league roster listing; role not guaranteed
Jeff Hoffman / 656546	P	Current major-league roster listing; role not guaranteed
Joe Ryan / 657746	P	Mutual option decline reported; remains arbitration eligible
Kaelen Culpepper / 701785	SS	Current major-league roster listing; role not guaranteed
Kendry Rojas / 696070	P	Current major-league roster listing; role not guaranteed
Kody Clemens / 665019	2B	Current major-league roster listing; role not guaranteed
Kody Funderburk / 681892	P	Current major-league roster listing; role not guaranteed
Luke Keaschall / 807712	2B	Current major-league roster listing; role not guaranteed
Marco Raya / 694397	P	Current major-league roster listing; role not guaranteed
Matt Wallner / 670242	RF	Current major-league roster listing; role not guaranteed
Mick Abel / 690953	P	Active administrative roster; prior injury and return conditions remain

Player / MLB ID	Position	November 3 status
Mike Paredes / 702474	P	Active administrative roster; prior injury and return conditions remain
Pablo López / 641154	P	Active administrative roster; prior injury and return conditions remain
Royce Lewis / 668904	1B	Current major-league roster listing; role not guaranteed
Ryan Kreidler / 668952	SS	Current major-league roster listing; role not guaranteed
Taj Bradley / 671737	P	Current major-league roster listing; role not guaranteed
Tommy Nance / 667297	P	Current major-league roster listing; role not guaranteed
Travis Adams / 701519	P	Current major-league roster listing; role not guaranteed
Trevor Larnach / 663616	LF	Current major-league roster listing; role not guaranteed
Victor Caratini / 605170	C	Current major-league roster listing; role not guaranteed
Walker Jenkins / 805805	CF	Current major-league roster listing; role not guaranteed
Yoendrys Gómez / 672782	P	Current major-league roster listing; role not guaranteed
Zebby Matthews / 805673	P	Current major-league roster listing; role not guaranteed

The roster and transactions were rechecked November 3. Administrative activations are separate from healthy-role assumptions. Non-roster prospects and external free agents appear in the relevant analysis tables, not as current major-league roster members. The Twins' explicit announcement that Banda cleared waivers and would become a free agent controls over his lagging entry on the roster pages. He remains excluded from the 37-player retained register and the payroll estimate.

The next decisions are concrete. Resolve Jeffers' qualifying offer and any alternative catcher commitment. Confirm the available payroll. Check the returning players' actual readiness. Negotiate the relief jobs within their stated limits. Require Culpepper and Jenkins to earn the proposed assignments while keeping coverage available behind them.

If the relief purchases fail, use the explicit internal innings map. If the catcher purchase fails, acknowledge the larger Caratini and Cardenas burden. If a key player departs, remove both his workload and the applicable salary before rebuilding the plan. A complete roster is the result of those reconciled decisions, not the sum of every attractive option discussed in the winter.

ANALYSIS / 23

Definitions and sources

Regular-season team and player totals are separated from postseason results. Minnesota-only statistics are labeled where a player also appeared for another club; expected statistics generally describe the full major-league season. Innings use baseball notation, with .1 and .2 representing one and two outs. Calculations convert those figures to outs rather than treating them as decimals.

wOBA summarizes offensive production with event weights; expected wOBA and expected slugging describe a contact-quality estimate rather than a guaranteed future result. Expected ERA is a diagnostic with similar limits. OAA describes tracked fielding range and is not a complete measure of defense. Catching run-value components are already included in the displayed catching total.

All acquisition prices, workloads, reserves and improvement scenarios are S&S judgments unless identified as a reported contract or published estimate. Annual allocation, multi-year commitment, cash timing and CBT accounting are different quantities. The runs-squared illustration is 162 multiplied by runs scored squared divided by the sum of runs scored squared and runs allowed squared. It is not an official projection.

[1] MLB: Minnesota 2026 team and player statistics

Completed Minnesota-only regular-season records, with separate team, starter/reliever and handedness queries. Collected November 3, 2026.

Open source

[2] MLB: 2024-26 team comparisons

All 30 teams checked separately for each season. Rankings, run differences and run-ratio illustrations are S&S calculations.

Open source

[3] MLB: Twins completed schedule

Completed regular-season games distinguished from other game types. No 2026 Minnesota postseason games included.

Open source

[4] MLB: Twins roster and transactions

November 3 administrative roster, current organizational listings and transaction history reconciled with later official announcements. Sixty-day IL listings remain distinct from a healthy-player assumption.

Open source

[5] Baseball Savant: expected batting statistics

Actual and expected wOBA and slugging retain full major-league season scope. Small samples are explicitly identified.

Open source

[6] Baseball Savant: expected pitching statistics

Full MLB season expected ERA. Minnesota-only actual statistics are separately labeled for players who changed clubs.

Open source

[7] Baseball Savant: Outs Above Average

Separate 2024, 2025 and 2026 observations. Combined defensive positions and tracked opportunities are preserved; OAA is not a future projection.

Open source

[8] MLB: individual handedness splits

Separate official queries for every listed hitter, including external alternatives Kelly and Stephenson. Plate appearances accompany the rates.

Open source

[9] MLB: Twins defensive positions and innings

Position-specific Minnesota work. Defensive innings are not added to the pitching workload budget.

Open source

[10] Baseball Savant: fielding and catching run value

2026 catching totals and framing, throwing, blocking and ABS components. Components are already included in the total.

Open source

[11] MLB: player identities, histories and current transactions

Named players registered by MLB ID. Full-season and team-specific histories distinguished; current-team labels checked against later transactions and official club roster membership.

Open source

[12] MLB/MiLB: Twins affiliates and prospect statistics

St. Paul 1960, Wichita 3898, Cedar Rapids 492 and Fort Myers 509. Level, sample and current organizational status preserved. MLB Pipeline checked separately.

Open source

[13] FanGraphs RosterResource: Twins payroll

November 3 observed 2027 salary, bonus adjustment, trade contribution and buyout columns. S&S allowances, timing uncertainty and excluded costs are identified separately.

Open source

[14] MLB Trade Rumors arbitration projections, syndicated by Yardbarker

Matt Swartz's published estimates. Nine retained Minnesota cases total $45 million after Banda is removed. Ryan is included once as an arbitration case.

Open source

[15] MLB: Twins outright three players

October 29 departure announcement supersedes lagging administrative entries.

Open source

[16] MLB: Ryan option decision

Reported option decision distinguished from continuing arbitration eligibility.

Open source

[17] MLB: Jeffers qualifying offer

November 2 offer and response deadline; acceptance remains pending at the research cutoff.

Open source

[18] MLB: Twins year-end payroll discussion

September 29 ownership comments do not establish a numeric payroll ceiling.

Open source

[19] MLB: Twins injury updates

Dated public availability information. No private medical knowledge, clearance or guaranteed recovery workload inferred.

Open source

[20] Stadium & Street: MLB team-analysis series

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

Open source

[21] MLB: current free-agent register

Current market classification cross-checked with individual transactions. Free agency does not establish price, willingness to sign or medical clearance.

Open source

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