STADIUM & STREET

A deeper NY Yankees lineup

2027 roster decisions that preserve the pitching strength

Public edition October 17, 2026

Analysis cutoff October 10. Roster checked October 17. Independent review.

https://stadiumandstreet.com

The biggest need is a deeper, more reliable lineup

2nd

Run prevention

24th

Reaching base

27th

Avoiding strikeouts

The recommendation

Plan for George Lombard Jr. at shortstop and Anthony Volpe at second. Settle third base, add contact and catching depth, preserve pitching depth, and explore extensions for Ben Rice and Cam Schlittler.

Current NY Yankees hitters

2026 team-only regular-season statistics. MLB-listed active and injured players as of October 17.

Pos	Player	PA	AVG	OBP	OPS	HR	K rate
C	Austin Wells	388	.186	.292	.624	14	26.5%
C	Ali Sanchez	92	.244	.275	.577	1	27.2%
C	J.C. Escarra	92	.188	.239	.510	0	19.6%
1B	Paul Goldschmidt	380	.252	.313	.765	18	22.6%
1B	Luis Garcia Jr.	169	.264	.302	.736	7	21.3%
2B	Jazz Chisholm Jr.	532	.231	.312	.711	19	29.5%
3B	Ryan McMahon	360	.213	.279	.636	11	29.4%
3B	Amed Rosario	244	.238	.279	.684	10	23.4%
SS	Anthony Volpe	246	.245	.321	.657	2	22.8%
SS	George Lombard Jr.	166	.237	.285	.699	7	26.5%

Pos	Player	PA	AVG	OBP	OPS	HR	K rate
Utility	Jose Caballero	456	.231	.290	.655	14	24.3%
Utility	Max Schuemann	87	.194	.333	.694	2	24.1%
LF	Cody Bellinger	562	.264	.338	.767	17	15.8%
LF	Heliot Ramos	136	.198	.309	.688	4	28.7%
CF	Trent Grisham	484	.211	.308	.703	18	18.4%
CF	Spencer Jones	289	.245	.313	.742	11	36.3%
RF	Aaron Judge	285	.241	.360	.871	18	29.8%
RF	Jasson Dominguez	222	.225	.267	.635	6	21.6%
DH	Ben Rice	667	.264	.363	.897	41	24.3%
DH	Giancarlo Stanton	96	.256	.302	.724	3	30.2%

n/r = no recorded 2026 team MLB statistics. Roster membership does not promise a 2027 role or return.

Current starters and pitching depth

2026 team-only regular-season totals. Depth entries without a season record have no assigned MLB role.

Pitcher	G	GS	Innings	ERA	WHIP	K	BB
Cam Schlittler	33	33	193.2	1.95	0.92	239	49
Will Warren*	32	29	156.0	3.92	1.37	158	54
Ryan Weathers	25	25	137.1	3.60	1.22	143	38
Gerrit Cole	22	22	127.0	3.61	1.10	131	25
Max Fried	20	20	112.2	2.80	0.99	104	33
Carlos Rodon	16	16	84.1	2.67	1.06	91	38
Elmer Rodriguez	6	6	26.2	5.40	1.58	21	16
Luis Gil*	9	4	27.1	4.61	1.43	17	18
Paul Blackburn*	62	2	85.0	1.59	1.08	69	33
Ryan Yarbrough*	38	2	63.1	3.69	1.22	49	23
Brendan Beck*	4	2	12.2	9.95	1.66	13	8
Clarke Schmidt*	1	0	0.2	0.00	3.00	2	0

*Also relieved (page 5). †No recorded 2026 team statistics. IL = current injured-list status, not medical clearance.

Clarke Schmidt remains in rotation depth despite no 2026 starts. Statistics include all roles.

Current NY Yankees relief contributors

2026 team totals, including starts. RA counts relief appearances only.

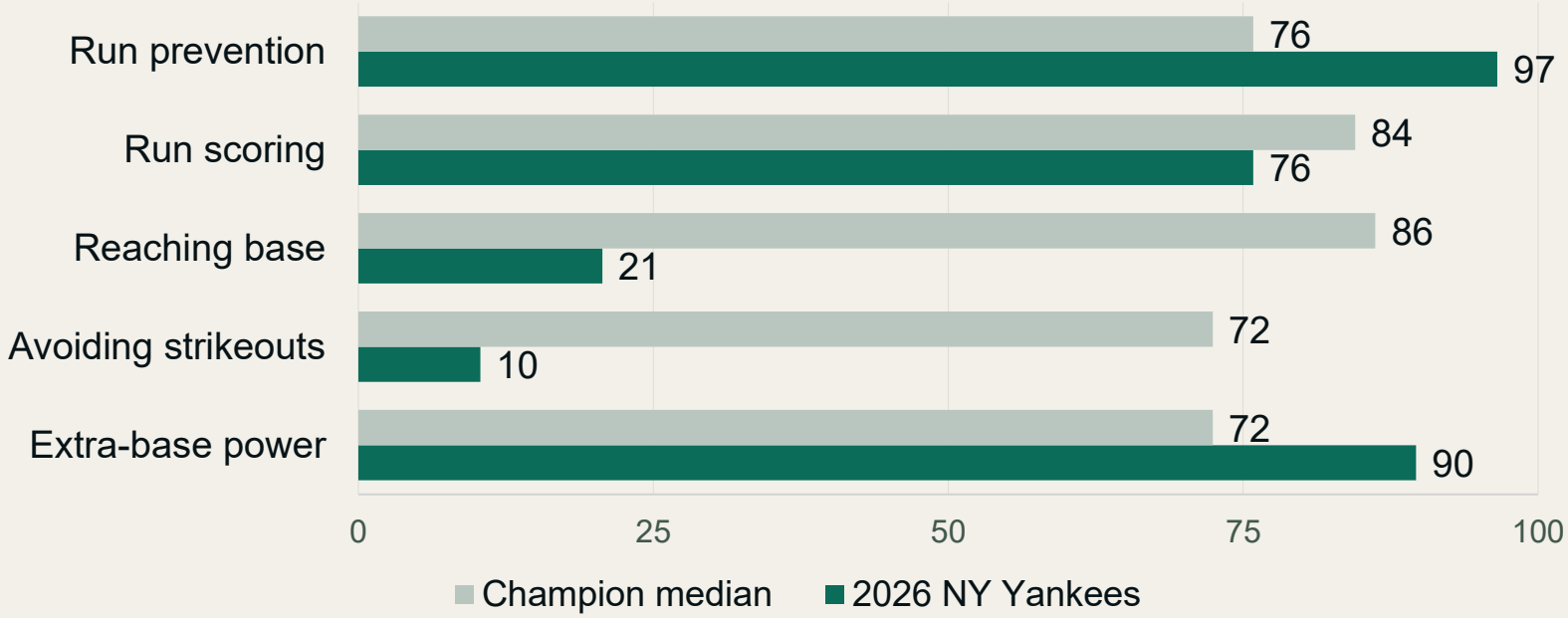
Pitcher	RA	IP	ERA	WHIP	K	BB	SV
Will Warren*	3	156.0	3.92	1.37	158	54	0
Paul Blackburn*	60	85.0	1.59	1.08	69	33	1
Brent Headrick	81	78.1	2.18	1.21	98	27	0
David Bednar	64	69.1	2.47	1.04	76	20	35
Ryan Yarbrough*	36	63.1	3.69	1.22	49	23	3
Tim Hill	67	58.2	4.60	1.14	25	13	2
Fernando Cruz (IL)	61	54.2	3.13	1.34	67	32	2
Luis Gil*	5	27.1	4.61	1.43	17	18	0

Pitcher	RA	IP	ERA	WHIP	K	BB	SV
Yerry De los Santos	16	22.0	2.05	1.27	17	8	0
Angel Chivilli	15	16.2	3.78	1.26	16	7	0
Brendan Beck*	2	12.2	9.95	1.66	13	8	0
John Schreiber	11	11.0	1.64	1.09	4	4	1
Michael Fulmer	12	10.0	4.50	1.50	14	6	0
Bradley Hanner	5	7.1	8.59	1.64	7	1	0
Kervin Castro (IL)	5	6.1	1.42	0.79	8	2	0
Clarke Schmidt	1	0.2	0.00	3.00	2	0	0

RA = G minus GS. *Also started (page 4). Do not sum duplicated pitchers across the two pages.
IP .1 and .2 mean one and two outs. IL is current status. No record is different from zero production.
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The biggest gaps from past champions are in the lineup

Within-season standing, 0 to 100. Higher is better.



Fewer strikeouts

Champions generally struck out less than other playoff teams.

Contents

Independent analysis. The roster snapshot and the original research have separate dated cutoffs.

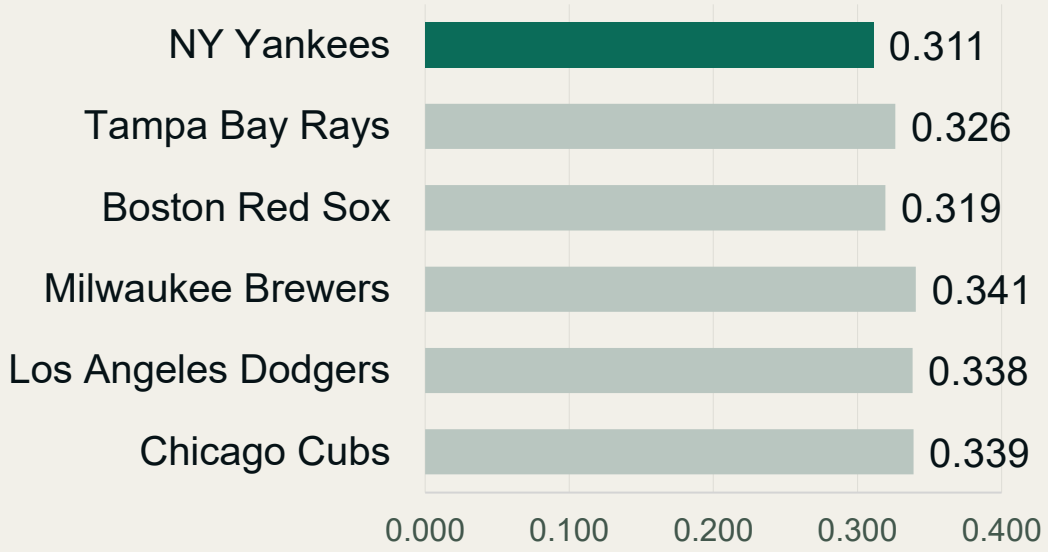
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Hitting and lineup construction

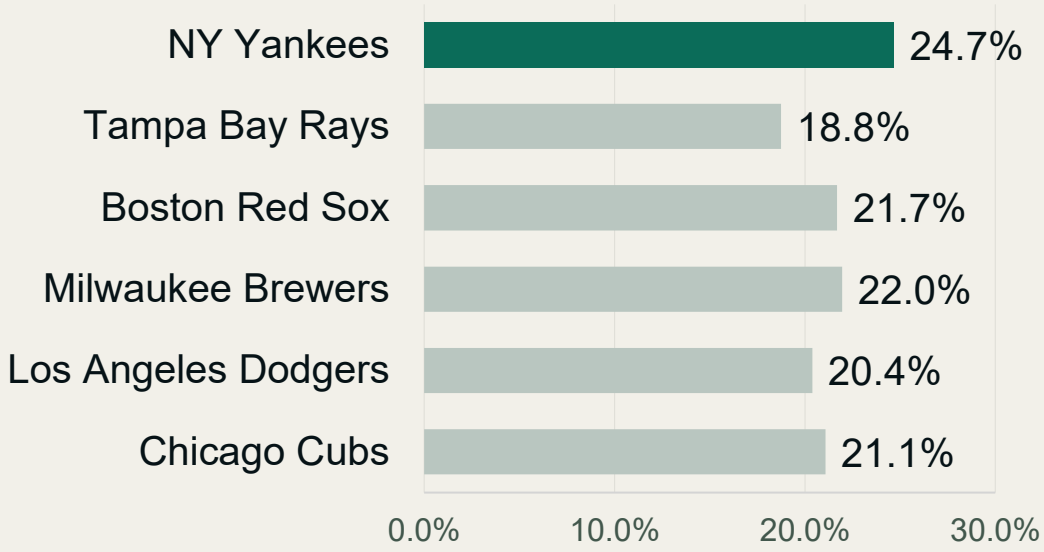
The lineup decisions center on contact and third base.

Rivals reached base more often and struck out less

On-base percentage. Higher is better.

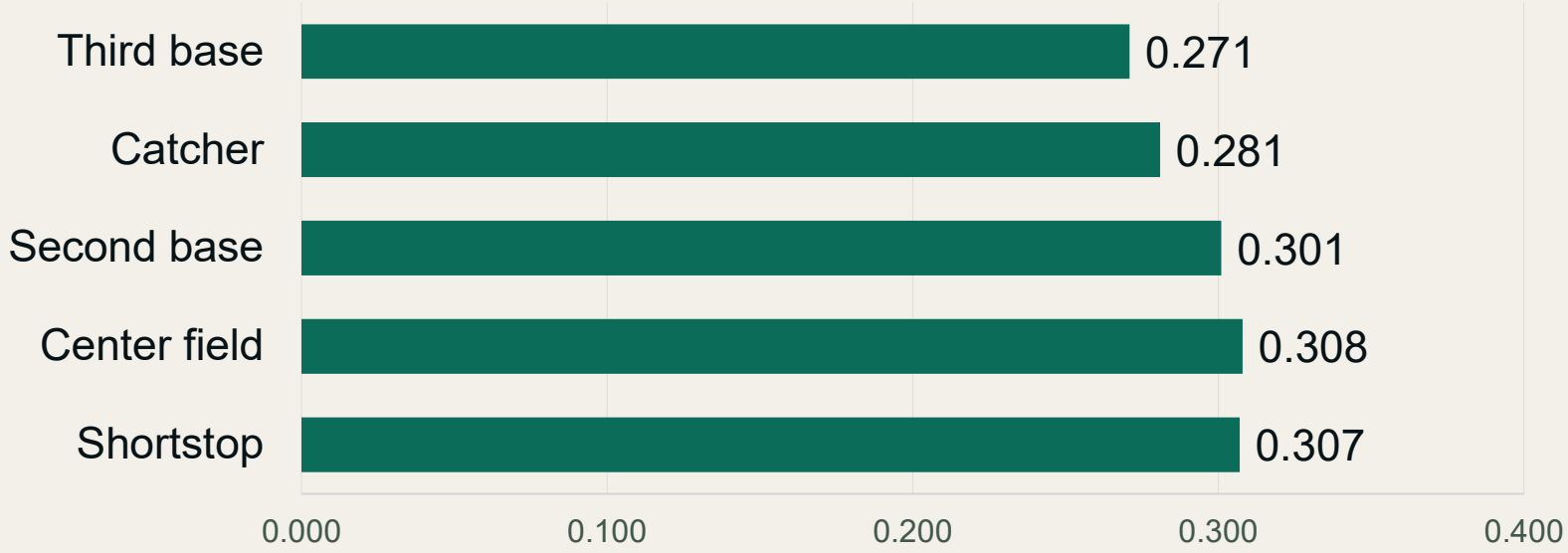


Strikeout rate. Lower is better.



Third base and catcher left too many empty at-bats

2026 on-base percentage by fielding position



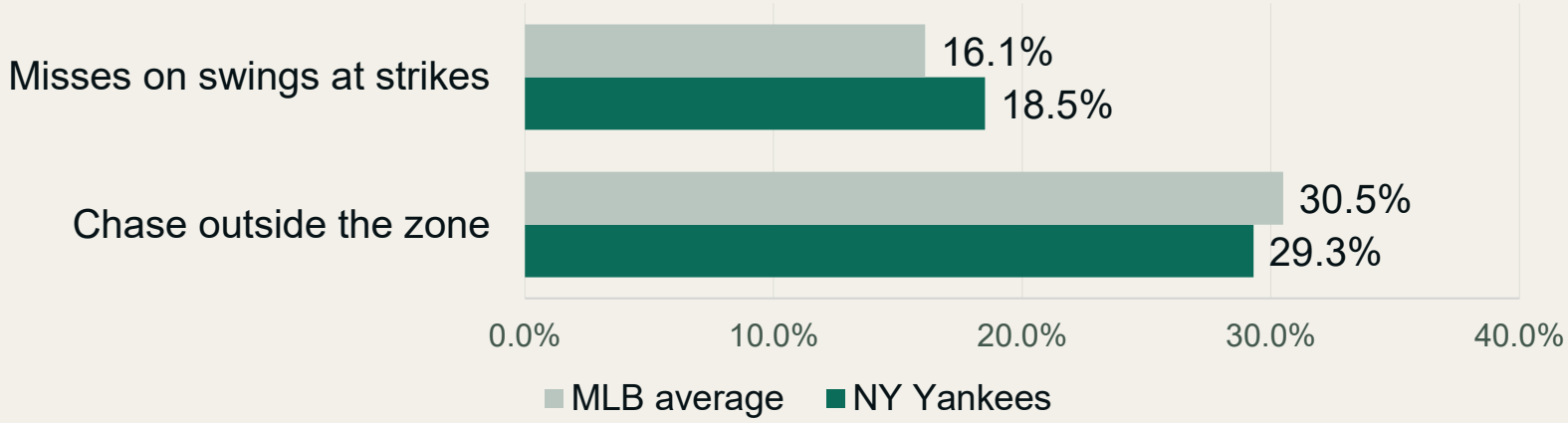
Depth matters

Aaron Judge: 285 PA
Giancarlo Stanton: 96 PA

The lineup needs dependable backups. It cannot rely on a full season from every regular.

The NY Yankees missed too many pitches inside the zone

2026 rates. Lower is better for both measures.



Productive contact

Make more contact on strikes without giving away power.

- Spencer Jones: review chase decisions and contact on strikes.
- Austin Wells: review timing and contact against changeups.
- Jazz Chisholm Jr.: review contact on strikes.

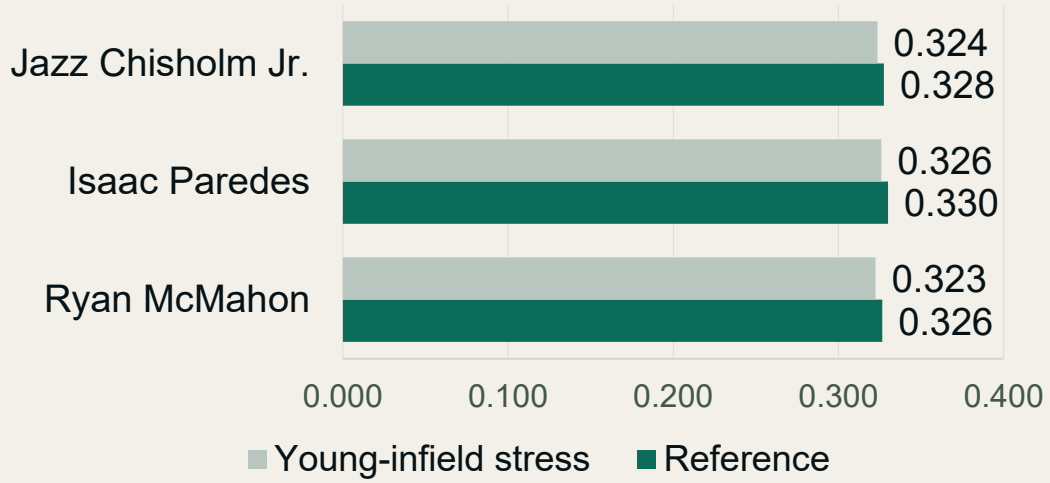
The contact fix depends on the type of miss

Pattern to confirm	Adjustment to test	What would justify keeping it
Late on fastballs	Earlier load or shorter hand path. Practice at game-speed velocity.	Fewer late misses without weaker contact.
Early on changeups	Mixed-speed recognition work. Keep the delivery and sequence unpredictable.	Better timing on changeups without losing the fastball.
Repeated location misses	Review bat path and contact point by zone. Test setup or path changes.	Improvement in that zone, without a new weakness elsewhere.
Misses with two strikes	Test a smaller leg kick, less movement or choking up, based on the hitter.	Fewer strikeouts, with enough offensive value to justify the tradeoff.

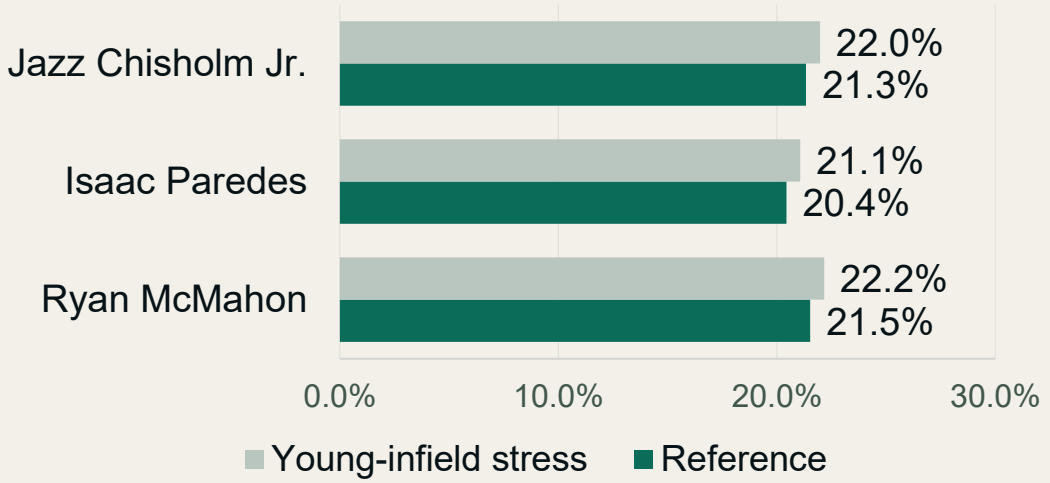
Confirm the cause first. Test one adjustment at a time and check whether it works in games.

The third-base choice has measurable offensive tradeoffs

Scenario on-base percentage



Scenario strikeout rate



Each third-base scenario assumes George Lombard Jr. at SS, Anthony Volpe at 2B, plus Steven Kwan, Ryan Jeffers and Mauricio Dubon.

Illustrative scenarios, not projections or estimated championship odds.

What each target adds, and what could rule him out

Player / role	Baseball case	Condition / fallback
Steven Kwan Outfield	More contact and runners on base.	Protect center-field depth. Trent Grisham covers a different need.
Ryan Jeffers Catcher	Complements Austin Wells against left-handers.	Check health and receiving. Carson Kelly depends on his option.
Isaac Paredes Third base	Alternative if Jazz Chisholm Jr. leaves.	Check park fit and defense. Ryan McMahon is the interim option.
Mauricio Dubon Utility	Add only if the roster still needs his skills.	Compare with Jose Caballero before adding another utility player.

Conditional targets. Availability, medicals and trade terms remain unverified.

Lineup alternatives if the first choice is unavailable

Need	Plan A	Plan B	Plan C / bridge
Outfield	Steven Kwan Trade inquiry	Trent Grisham Retention if available	Daulton Varsho Availability and on-base review
Catching partner	Ryan Jeffers Acquisition inquiry	Carson Kelly Option-dependent	Austin Wells + reserve Upgrade still unresolved
Third base	Jazz Chisholm Jr. Retention and role review	Isaac Paredes Trade and park-fit review	Ryan McMahon Bridge, with contact gap
Utility coverage	Jose Caballero Retain if role fits	Mauricio Dubon Only for an unmet job	Internal competition Keep SS/2B cover

Outfield fallbacks cover different jobs. If Steven Kwan is unavailable, seek contact elsewhere.

Defense and position coverage

The proposed infield requires readiness checks and dependable backups.

The infield plan needs a third-base decision

Decision	Recommended path	If the assumption fails
Shortstop / second	George Lombard Jr. at SS. Anthony Volpe gets the first chance at 2B.	Keep a credible SS/2B reserve. Review bat and defense.
Jazz Chisholm Jr. at third	Retain with role agreement and a sound defensive evaluation.	Consider Isaac Paredes. Ryan McMahon remains a bridge.
Anthony Volpe struggles	Review sustained skills and defense, not one brief slump.	Jose Caballero or another utility option. A 2B change reopens 3B.

Planning path, subject to readiness, defense and role agreement.

Every position needs a starter and a credible backup

Assignment	Before confirming the role	Coverage requirement
George Lombard Jr. Shortstop	Confirm readiness for everyday work at shortstop.	Keep a credible shortstop reserve.
Anthony Volpe Second base	Assess range, positioning and double-play work at second.	Jose Caballero or another qualified reserve.
Third-base choice	Evaluate the selected player at third. Second-base value does not transfer automatically.	Keep Ryan McMahon as a bridge unless a move provides replacement cover.
Catcher and outfield	Check receiving and actual outfield assignments alongside the offensive fit.	Confirm a catching partner and a playable center-field backup.

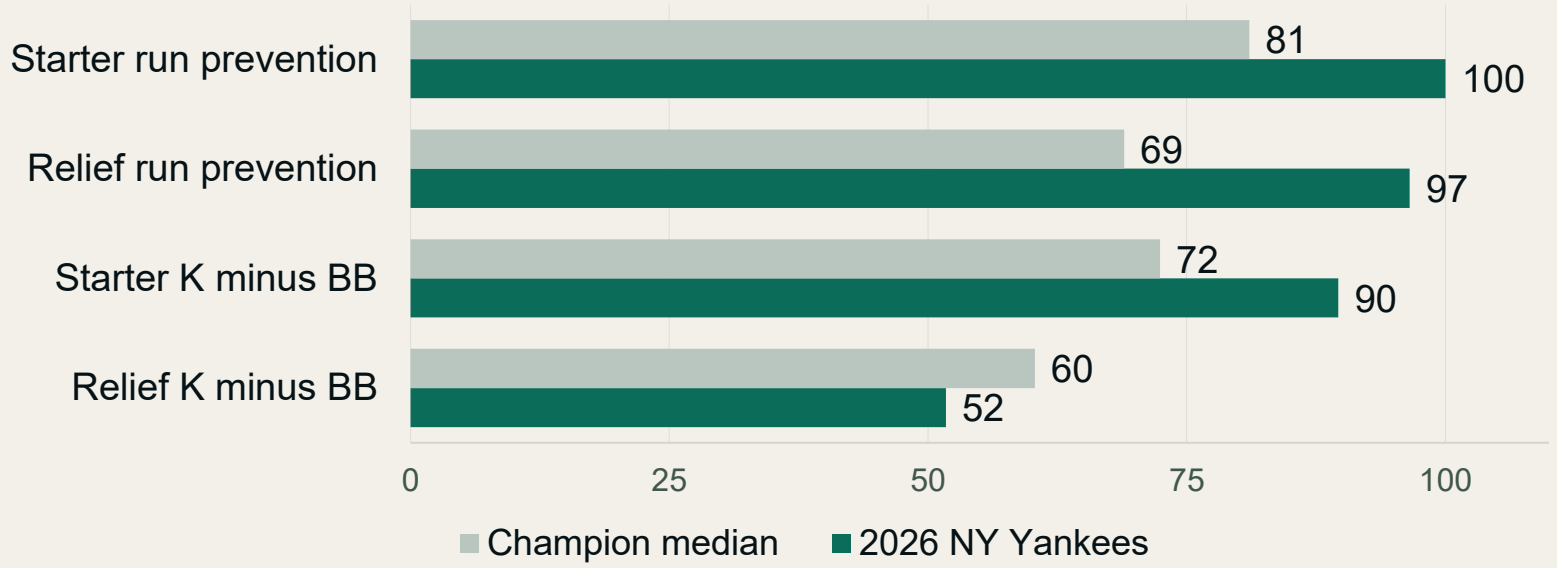
Judge each player at his proposed position before counting on a defensive improvement.

Pitching and depth

The offseason task is to preserve a strength while replacing any departures.

Pitching is the strength to preserve

Within-season standing, 0 to 100. Higher is better.



1st / 2nd

Starter / relief ERA ranks in 2026

The bullpen was near the middle of MLB in strikeouts minus walks.

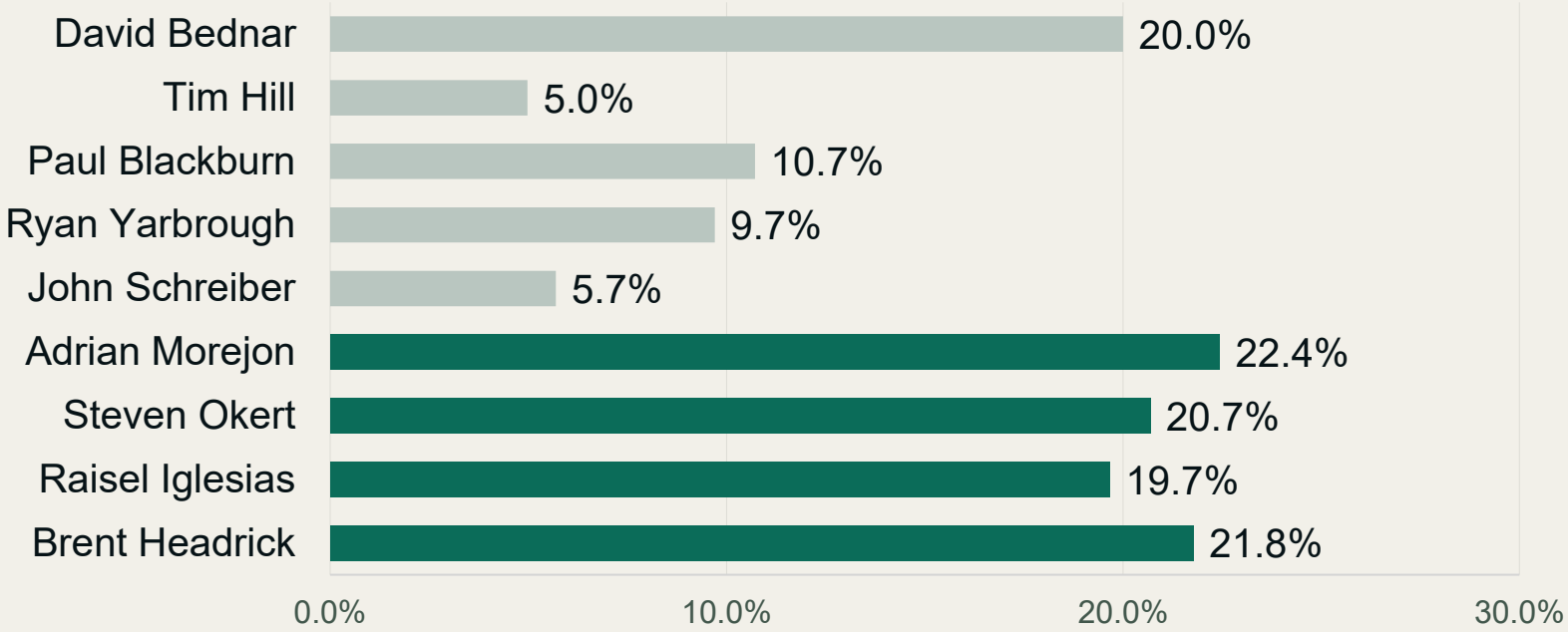
Decisions on five potential pitching free agents

Pitcher	Recommendation	Replacement route / caution
David Bednar	Prioritize re-signing	Explore Raisel Iglesias or Adrian Morejon for late innings.
Tim Hill	Conditional return	Compare Steven Okert, Adrian Morejon and Brent Headrick. Check home-run risk.
Paul Blackburn	Retain if bulk role fits	Compare Sean Newcomb and Tyler Alexander. Do not assume the same ERA.
Ryan Yarbrough	Return if a bulk role is open	Keep a distinct role if Paul Blackburn also returns.
John Schreiber	Competition for a role	Review strikeouts and walks. Consider Steven Okert or Alex Vesia.

Potential free agents as of this review. Reconfirm status before action.

Relief alternatives offer different strikeout and walk profiles

Strikeout rate minus walk rate, 2026. Higher is better.



Role comes first

Late-inning outs and bulk innings need separate coverage.

Brent Headrick is an internal option. Health, contact quality and matchups still matter.

2026 results across clubs. This single measure is not a complete ranking.

Pitching alternatives must cover late innings and bulk work

Decision	Plan A	Plan B	Plan C / bridge
David Bednar	Pursue retention Late-inning role	Raisel Iglesias External inquiry	Adrian Morejon Review late-inning fit
Tim Hill	Conditional return Contact-quality review	Steven Okert External inquiry	Brent Headrick Internal, workload-limited
Paul Blackburn / Ryan Yarbrough	Retain for multi-inning work Both need distinct roles	Sean Newcomb Bulk-role inquiry	Tyler Alexander Bulk-role inquiry
John Schreiber	Earn a role Command review	Alex Vesia External inquiry	Internal competition No guaranteed upgrade

Starting-depth coverage remains a separate requirement if any starter misses time.

Decisions and execution

Each move needs a baseball case, an accountable owner and a fallback.

Extension talks make sense, but neither deal is urgent

Ben Rice

First base and DH anchor
First free-agent season: 2031

Explore added years of control. Assess his hitting against both lefties and righties, and keep first base and DH flexible.

Cam Schlittler

Rotation anchor
First free-agent season: 2032

Explore added years after reviewing health and workload. An extension does not replace the need for rotation depth.

Existing control keeps both players in New York for 2027 without extensions.

The offseason plan starts with four decisions

Decision / owner	Next action	Fallback or approval test
Third base General manager	Discuss Jazz Chisholm Jr. at third before committing to another infielder.	If no agreement: assess Isaac Paredes. Keep Ryan McMahon as the bridge.
Contact Hitting staff	Confirm each hitter's miss pattern. Test one change before spring roles settle.	Keep it only if contact improves without unacceptable power loss.
Catcher and outfield General manager	Explore Ryan Jeffers and Steven Kwan for the identified lineup jobs.	If unavailable or the talent cost is excessive, use the alternatives on slide 15.
Pitching Baseball operations	Resolve all five free-agent cases. Assign starters, injury cover and missed-start depth.	Use the role alternatives on slide 23. Count available innings once.

Before commitments: verify availability, medicals and outgoing talent. Added wins remain unquantified.

Longer-term talent belongs on a separate track

Channel	Scouting priorities	What still needs checking
Upper minors	Sterlin Thompson / Luke Adams / Sean Keys; Franco Aleman / Nate Lavender / Will Dion / Micah Ashman	Club, health and control. Whether the skills will hold up against MLB competition.
College draft	Brendan Lawson / Gavin Kelly / Adrian Rodriguez / Matt Ineich; Chris Levonas / Tomas Valincius	Draft eligibility, defense and performance against better pitching. No draft ranking yet.
International amateurs	Middle-of-field players with strong contact skills. Named candidates remain unverified.	Resolve identity and eligibility conflicts before recommending individual players. No signing is verified.
Development	Individual hitting plans, defense and pitchers who throw strikes.	Compare similar opportunities. Track players who stall as well as those who reach MLB.

These are scouting leads, not a draft board. Do not count on amateur signings for 2027 MLB help.

Appendix

Supporting evidence, methods and definitions.

Strikeout avoidance was the clearest historical signal

Measure	Champion gap	95% interval	Adjusted q
Scoring	0.35	0.04 to 0.67	0.087
Run prevention	0.06	-0.16 to 0.30	0.956
Run differential	0.26	0.03 to 0.51	0.063
On-base percentage	0.37	0.04 to 0.69	0.071
Extra-base power	0.20	-0.16 to 0.55	0.473
Strikeout avoidance	**0.53**	**0.20 to 0.88**	**0.036**
Walk rate	0.03	-0.38 to 0.42	0.956
Pitching K minus BB	-0.04	-0.28 to 0.20	0.956
Home-run prevention	-0.01	-0.29 to 0.27	0.956

Only strikeout avoidance remained statistically significant after adjusting for nine comparisons.
The combined model did not beat run differential alone at predicting champions.

Pitching was strong. Reaching base and contact lagged

2026 team	OBP	K rate	Runs allowed/G	Starter ERA	Relief ERA
Los Angeles Dodgers	.338	20.4%	3.70	3.43	3.74
NY Yankees	**.311**	**24.7%**	**3.73**	**3.30**	**3.13**
Boston Red Sox	.319	21.7%	3.77	3.92	3.00
Milwaukee Brewers	.341	22.0%	3.81	3.61	3.40
Atlanta Braves	.309	21.6%	3.86	3.76	3.44
Tampa Bay Rays	.326	18.8%	4.01	3.51	3.99
Cleveland Guardians	.316	20.8%	4.12	3.93	3.54
San Diego Padres	.319	21.6%	4.20	4.42	3.53
Philadelphia Phillies	.312	21.7%	4.31	3.80	4.43
Chicago Cubs	.339	21.1%	4.34	4.27	3.90
Chicago White Sox	.320	24.1%	4.44	4.60	3.70
Houston Astros	.315	21.9%	4.73	4.81	4.08

NY Yankees: second-lowest on-base percentage and highest strikeout rate in this field. Improve the lineup while preserving strong run prevention.

Projected win gains remain unproven

Comparison needed	What it must include
2026 actual WAR	NY Yankees-only hitter and pitcher contribution
2027 baseline	Returning roster and internal replacements
2027 Plans A / B / C	Arrivals minus departures, with playing time
Net improvement	Each plan minus the same 2027 baseline

What we can support

Historical finding:
strikeout avoidance.

Not yet established:
net WAR gains, prediction ranges or deal availability.

A projected 3-WAR arrival replacing 2 WAR adds about 1 WAR, not 3.
Illustration only. Coaching changes and extensions receive no automatic win credit.

Roster baseline: definitions and selection

Pages 3-5. October 17 roster snapshot, completed 2026 team-only regular-season statistics.

Measure	Meaning and scope
Coverage	20 current hitters and 22 pitchers. Active roster plus MLB-listed injured players. Departures and minor-league assignments excluded.
G, GS, RA, PA	G = games. GS = starts. RA = relief appearances, G minus GS. PA = plate appearances. Pitchers can appear on both pages. Never add their totals twice.
AVG, OBP, OPS	AVG = hits / at-bats. OBP = (hits + walks + hit-by-pitches) / (at-bats + walks + hit-by-pitches + sacrifice flies). OPS = OBP + slugging.
K rate, HR	Hitter K rate = strikeouts / PA. HR = home runs. PA and all pitching innings reconcile to the team season in the source check.
IP, ERA, WHIP	IP .1 and .2 mean one and two outs. ERA = earned runs x 9 / innings. WHIP = (walks + hits) / innings. Use fractional innings for calculations.
Current status	IL identifies the current roster designation, not all injuries during 2026 or a medical forecast. n/r means no recorded team-season statistic, not zero.
Selection limit	This is not a 26-man postseason roster, a projected 2027 roster or an assurance of role, health, availability or return.

Definitions and notes: 1 of 4

Slide	Definition or qualification
02	2026 MLB ranks, first is best. Reaching base uses on-base percentage. Avoiding strikeouts uses strikeouts / plate appearances. Formulas: slide 9 entry below.
06	Percentile = 100 × (teams − rank) / (teams − 1), with average ranks for ties. Medians use 30 champions, 1996-2025. Power = extra bases beyond singles / at-bats.
09	On-base percentage = (hits + walks + hit-by-pitches) / (at-bats + walks + hit-by-pitches + sacrifice flies). Strikeout rate = strikeouts / plate appearances. 2026 season. All 12 playoff teams: slide 30.
10	On-base percentage formula: slide 9 entry above. Position refers to the assignment during the plate appearance (PA). Source: MLB position splits, 2026. No injury-prevention claim.
11	In-zone miss rate = 100% minus in-zone contact rate: NY Yankees 81.5%, MLB 83.9%. Chase = swings outside the zone / pitches outside it. Both use Statcast definitions. Contact includes fouls. Launch angle describes the batted ball, not why a swing missed. No causal coaching claim.
12	First confirm the miss pattern with pitch location, speed, movement, count and video/bat tracking. Compare matched opportunities before and after, including foul contact, balls in play, damage and chase. Uncontrolled improvement does not establish causation. No universal swing change or guaranteed gain.

Definitions and notes: 2 of 4

Slide	Definition or qualification
13	Historical-rate illustrations across 6,000 plate appearances, not forecasts. Stress case: George Lombard Jr. and Anthony Volpe OBP minus .025 and strikeout rate plus 4 percentage points. Formulas: page 33.
14	Recommendations are conditional. No accepted trade return, player agreement or medical clearance exists in this public review. Center-field coverage must be assessed separately.
15	Priority order for inquiries, not equivalent substitutes or confirmed deals. Neither outfield fallback promises Steven Kwan's offensive profile. The interim catching option leaves an upgrade unresolved. Jose Caballero retention can avoid a redundant Mauricio Dubon acquisition. Reconfirm current status before action.
17	Planning recommendation, not a guaranteed 2027 assignment. Jazz Chisholm Jr.’s second-base defensive value does not automatically transfer to third. SS = shortstop; 2B/3B = second/third base.
20	Earned run average (ERA) = 9 × earned runs / innings. K minus BB = (strikeouts − walks) / batters faced. Percentile formula: page 33. Champion medians cover 1996-2025 and are comparisons, not required thresholds.

Definitions and notes: 3 of 4

Slide	Definition or qualification
21	The report matches the current MLB roster to the potential free-agent list. Justin Topa needs a separate minor-league/status check. No current starter appears in that match. Reconfirm all contract statuses.
22	(Strikeouts − walks) / batters faced, full 2026 MLB season across clubs. Descriptive, not a forecast or complete ranking. Gray: five current free-agent cases. Green: selected alternatives.
23	Candidates reflect the dated report, with current eligibility, health and willingness still to verify. Plan letters describe investigation order. Do not allocate Adrian Morejon, Steven Okert or Brent Headrick twice across simultaneous branches. Existing internal innings cannot also count as new replacement innings.
25	Public service-time schedules, subject to official accounting. Neither needs an extension to remain in New York in 2027. DH = designated hitter. No offers or market prices are assumed.
26	Proposed responsibilities, not accepted assignments. Our illustrative worksheet budgets 1,440 innings: 1,175 assigned to named pitchers plus 265 for reserves. That is a worksheet assumption, not a verified NY Yankees shortage or injury forecast. Recalculate after roster and health decisions.

Definitions and notes: 4 of 4

Slide	Definition or qualification
27	Thirty organizations screened in the minors. College study is a selected-school cohort, not a national ranking. Amateur acquisitions receive no assumed 2027 MLB production.
29	Champion gap: positive values favor champions versus other playoff teams, in season-standardized units. The 95% interval shows sampling uncertainty. Adjusted q accounts for nine tests, with .05 as the cutoff. Prediction log loss: combined model 2.350 versus run differential 2.327. Lower is better.
30	On-base percentage and strikeout rate: formulas on page 33. Earned run average (ERA) = 9 × earned runs / innings. G = games. Ordered by runs allowed/game. These are observations, not October forecasts.
31	Wins Above Replacement (WAR) estimates value above a replacement-level player. Use one provider and dated projections throughout. Net gain = plan WAR minus baseline WAR at consistent opportunities. Historical 95% intervals and adjusted q values do not measure the chance that a transaction succeeds.
37	Independent public-data review. No NY Yankees affiliation or endorsement. Independent analysis. No club affiliation or endorsement.

About this independent review

Richard Brown, President, Stadium & Street

The review brings public baseball evidence to a familiar fan question: what would make this club better, and what would have to be true for the plan to work?

Richard Brown brings business leadership experience and a longstanding interest in baseball and team building. The analysis is independent. Neither the club nor any player has endorsed it.

stadiumandstreet.com
hello@stadiumandstreet.com