

RED SOX vs. YANKEES

2026 AL Wild Card Series | Integrated scouting book | September 29, 2026

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HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

The original report pages and their live source links are preserved. Global page numbers run along the bottom; the PDF bookmarks navigate directly to each section and player report. The bullpen chapters use the September 29 Remarkable scoop updates and retain their pregame active-roster cutoff. Confirm the final Wild Card rosters and lineups before air.

SECTION 01

SERIES OVERVIEW

Matchup, story leads, starting plans and series context

Gold Standard series scouting report

RED SOX vs. YANKEES

2026 AL Wild Card Series | Gold Standard scouting matchup | Research cutoff: September 28, 2026

Best of three at Yankee Stadium, September 29–October 1. Game 1 is scheduled for 8 p.m. ET. The winner advances to face Tampa Bay. All series roster and injury projections below require the official game-day roster and lineup. Blue headlines and source names are live links.

Executive read

The American League's two stingiest run-prevention clubs meet again. Boston (87–75) rose from 32–46 on June 24 to October under Chad Tracy. New York (93–68 entering its listed 161-game total) got here on an elite rotation despite long stretches without Aaron Judge. The Yankees won the season series 7–6; their 2025 Wild Card Game 3 ended with Cam Schlichter throwing eight scoreless innings and striking out 12 Red Sox. This opener reverses that memory into a rookie duel: Payton Tolle against Schlittler. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#); [Red Sox-Yankees AL Wild Card Series Game 1 FAQ](#)

2026 snapshot	Boston	New York
Record / run differential	87–75 / +78	93–68 / +138
Runs scored / allowed	689 / 611 (4.25 / 3.77 per game)	739 / 601 (4.59 / 3.73 per game)
Slash / homers	.245/.319/.397 / 163	.235/.311/.409 / 223
Walk / strikeout rate	8.5% / 21.7%	9.5% / 24.7%
Steals / bullpen ERA	107 / 2.99	153 / 3.15
Home / road	41–40 / 46–35	46–34 / 47–34
Last 30 / one-run	14–16 / 21–21	19–11 / 17–22
Versus RHP / LHP starters	61–58 / 26–17	58–48 / 35–20

Team totals: uploaded 2026 Baseball-Reference and Baseball Savant reports; rates and bullpen ERA: [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#). New York's 93–68 record covers 161 games in the supplied final snapshot. Boston's official Savant team page lists 163 home runs; an earlier FanGraphs article listed 162.

The path to this series

Boston. Alex Cora's club started 10–17; Tracy moved from Triple-A Worcester into the manager's chair. On June 24 the Sox were 32–46, then a four-game sweep of the Yankees opened a 32–5 run, including 15 straight wins. Tracy's 77–58 tenure won him a three-year deal through 2029 with a 2030 option. Boston won with pitching and defense while Garrett Crochet (30 IP), Roman Anthony and Trevor Story lost substantial time. Its September offense scored only 2.96 runs per game. [Red Sox award Tracy with 3-year deal](#); [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)

New York. The staff allowed 601 runs, with a 3.30 starters ERA. Judge played 66 games due to a rib stress fracture and then a calf injury. The Yankees were 41–25 and scored 5.12 runs per game with him, 52–43 and 4.22 without him, per the supplied MLB research packet. Ben Rice supplied 41 homers, Cody Bellinger 4.6 bWAR and strong left-field defense. New York went 19–11 in its last 30 and carries every game at home. [Yankees' rotation has been strength of 2026 team](#); [Aaron Judge likely to miss AL Wild Card Series](#)

Season-series turns. New York swept an April set at Fenway. Boston's four-game June sweep became the hinge of its season. The Yankees took three of four in August, including a 16–1 finale. The final head-to-head edge was 7–6 for New York. Source: uploaded Baseball-Reference September 29 matchup preview.

Five ranked Boston stories

1. From 32-46 to October

Boston was 14 games under .500 on June 24, then swept New York June 25-28 and won 32 of 37, including a franchise-record-tying 15 straight. The 87-75 finish and 77-58 mark under Chad Tracy frame this as a comeback season, not a wire-to-wire contender. [Red Sox award Tracy with 3-year deal](#)

2. A club rebuilt around run prevention

Crochet threw only 30 innings; Boston nevertheless allowed just 611 runs (3.77 per game), its fewest runs per game since 1968. Gray (2.72 ERA), rookie Tolle (3.03), Suárez (3.22), and the Chapman-Whitlock finish offset an offense that scored 2.96 runs per game in September. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)

3. New faces held the lineup together

The Contreras trade yielded a .901 OPS and 27 homers; the Durbin deal supplied 4.4 Baseball-Reference WAR and strong third-base defense. Boston paid a large prospect price for Rutschman in August, but his 32 Red Sox games yielded a .688 OPS. These additions arrived as Anthony and Story spent months hurt. [Red Sox swing blockbuster trade with O's for 2019 No. 1 pick Rutschman](#)

4. Stars, stalls, and the health question

Abreu (5.9 bWAR), Rafaela (5.7), and Contreras (4.6) led position players. Duran (.627 OPS), Story (.621), and the post-trade Rutschman (.688) fell short offensively. Contreras returned Sunday, but Gasper and Guerrero are on the IL; Crochet remains an activation decision. [2026 Boston Red Sox Statistics](#)

5. Route to a series win

Tolle held New York to one run and four hits in 13 first-half innings; Boston brings a strong defensive outfield and the majors lowest bullpen ERA (2.99). The obstacle is timely offense against Schlittler and Fried after a league-low 2.96 runs per game in September. The winner faces Tampa Bay. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)

Five ranked New York stories

1. The pitching carried a damaged roster

New York finished 93-68 with 601 runs allowed and a 2.90 staff ERA, its lowest since 1978. Schlittler (1.95 ERA), Fried (2.80), Cole (3.61), and Rodón (2.67) give Boone options, while the rotation posted MLB's lowest starters ERA (3.30). [Yankees' rotation has been strength of 2026 team](#)

2. Life without Judge changed the offense

The Yankees were 41-25 and scored 5.12 runs per game when Judge played; they were 52-43 and scored 4.22 without him. He appeared in only 66 games because of a rib injury and later a right calf strain. His Wild Card availability was unresolved Monday, with the club planning for his absence. [Aaron Judge likely to miss AL Wild Card Series](#)

3. Boston-area players became October headliners

Walpole native Schlittler grew up a Red Sox fan and struck out 12 in eight scoreless innings to eliminate Boston last October. Cohasset native Rice carried the lineup with 41 homers in the final Baseball-Reference and Baseball Savant tables; the uploaded MLB research packet lists 42, an earlier conflicting figure. [Cam Schlittler to start Game 1 of AL Wild Card Series](#)

4. Deadline patchwork and underperformance

The Yankees acquired García Jr. and Ramos to replace missing offense. García supplied a left-handed first-base option; Ramos was slow to start after the trade. Bellinger's return helped, but McMahon (.635 OPS), Wells (.624), and the third-base platoon underperformed. Lombard and Jones offered rookie lift. [Yankees acquire Heliot Ramos from Giants](#)

5. Their formula and its weakness

New York hit 223 homers and stole 153 bases; its bullpen ERA was 3.15, second to Boston. A 7-6 season edge earns all games at Yankee Stadium. Without Judge, power is concentrated in Rice and platoon choices matter against Boston's two left-handed starters. A short series can expose the uncertain third-base and right-field roles. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)

Probable starters and game plan

Game	Boston	New York
1 · Sept. 29	Payton Tolle, LHP · 9–6, 3.03 ERA · 148⅔ IP · 28.4 K% · 6.6 BB% · 2.69 xERA	Cam Schlichtler, RHP · 14–6, 1.95 ERA · 193⅓ IP · 31.4 K% · 6.4 BB% · 2.85 xERA
2 · Sept. 30	Sonny Gray, RHP · 18–5, 2.72 ERA · 169 IP · 21.8 K% · 3.85 xERA	Max Fried, LHP · 5–5, 2.80 ERA · 112⅔ IP · 24.0 K% · 2.52 xERA
3 · if needed	Ranger Suárez, LHP · 3.22 ERA · 148⅓ IP · 22.9 K% · 3.61 xERA	Gerrit Cole, RHP · 3.61 ERA · 127 IP · 25.2 K% · 3.77 xERA

Pitcher season and expected statistics: [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#). Probable assignments: [Red Sox-Yankees AL Wild Card Series Game 1 FAQ](#). xERA estimates contact quality and strikeouts/walks; it is not a forecast for this series. Rodón is an additional relief/ALDS option for New York, subject to final roster use.

Game 1 | power four-seamers with different shapes

Tolle: His 96.1 mph four-seamer made up 44.6% of pitches, with a .188 opponent average, .332 slugging and 30.5% whiff rate on swings. The 94.8 mph sinker (24.1%) was hit harder (.314/.460), while an 88.6 cutter (19.2%) and 82.9 curve (9.3%, 43.4% whiff) supply different looks. His Savant percentiles: 95th xERA, 90th xBA, 96th chase, 86th strikeout, 81st walk avoidance, 26th ground-ball rate. His 37.3% ground-ball rate in FanGraphs underscores the fly-ball exposure in Yankee Stadium. In two first-half starts against New York he allowed one run and four hits with 18 strikeouts in 13 innings. Source: uploaded Payton Tolle Baseball Savant profile; [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)

Schlichtler: The 98.0 mph four-seamer comprised 44.5% of pitches, holding hitters to .163/.263 with a 34.8% whiff rate. A 94.6 cutter (25.6%) and 97.8 sinker (19.3%) follow, plus an 86.3 curve that generated a 44.2% whiff rate. The sinker jumped from 6.1% use in 2025 to 19.3% in 2026 while the four-seamer fell from 55.9% to 44.5%. Savant shows 93rd percentile xERA, 95th strikeout rate, 94th fastball velocity, 86th chase and 81st extension. Boston's Ceddanne Rafaela struck out on 38% of swings against 95+ mph fastballs in the uploaded Remarkable packet, a specific velocity collision; pitch location and selection still decide the plate appearance. Source: uploaded Cam Schlichtler Baseball Savant profile and MLB Remarkable packet. [Cam Schlichtler to start Game 1 of AL Wild Card Series](#)

Broadcast hook: Schlichtler is from Walpole, Massachusetts, grew up a Red Sox fan, and is 3–1 with a 0.56 ERA against Boston in five career starts including last October. Tolle's two 2026 starts against New York make the rematch personal on both sides. Those small head-to-head samples are descriptive, not predictive. [Red Sox-Yankees AL Wild Card Series Game 1 FAQ](#); [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)

Games 2 and 3 | styles and uncertainty

Gray versus Fried. Gray no-hit his former club for 7⅓ innings on June 28. His 2.72 ERA was substantially below his 3.85 xERA, a reason to watch traffic and contact even after 18 wins. Fried's 2.80 ERA and 2.52 xERA came over 112⅔ innings after a left-elbow bone bruise; he allowed just four homers. The Yankees' lefty will test Boston's right-handed counters, especially Contreras and a possible Jahmai Jones DH assignment. [Red Sox-Yankees AL Wild Card Series Game 1 FAQ](#); [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)

Suárez versus Cole, if necessary. Suárez has a 1.48 ERA over 11 prior postseason outings for Philadelphia, but Boston's 2026 regular-season xERA (3.61) sits above his 3.22 ERA. Cole returned from Tommy John surgery and issued only 4.8% walks, yet allowed 1.56 HR/9, compared with Suárez's 0.61. New York could use Carlos Rodón in relief, preserving a possible Division Series start. Confirm rest and roster roles before air. [Red Sox-Yankees AL Wild Card Series Game 1 FAQ](#); [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)

Offense, defense and bullpen levers

Boston's lineup: Willson Contreras led its bat at .275/.386/.516 with 27 HR and an AL-best .333 average with two outs in the uploaded Remarkable packet. Abreu (.248/.327/.446, 24 HR, 38 doubles) and Rafaela (.283/.319/.442, 16 HR, 17 SB) combined for 11.6 bWAR. Caleb Durbin contributed 4.4 bWAR and 20 SB. Jarren Duran (.207/.266/.361) and Story (.235/.271/.351 in 64 games) underperformed, while Rutschman hit .222/.278/.410 over 32 Boston games after the August trade. Anthony's return August 30 supplies an additional left-handed bat. Team DRS was 70 (third), led by 21 in center for Rafaela and 28 in right for

Abreu. [2026 Boston Red Sox Statistics](#); [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)

New York's lineup: Rice (.264/.363/.534, 41 HR) is the central power source without Judge. The uploaded Remarkable packet says his .757 slugging on elevated fastballs led MLB and his 1.029 slugging when the pitcher was behind led the AL. Bellinger (.264/.338/.429, 17 HR) guards left; Jazz Chisholm Jr. stole 41 bases. Luis García Jr. hit 30 homers across his full season but .264/.302/.434 over 43 New York games; Heliot Ramos hit .198/.309/.379 in 38 Yankee games. Goldschmidt (.967 OPS against lefties in the uploaded Remarkable packet) is a natural counter to Tolle and Suárez. McMahon (.213/.279/.357) and Wells (.186/.292/.332) are lower-output spots. [2026 New York Yankees Statistics](#); [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)

Late innings: Boston's 2.99 bullpen ERA led the majors; Chapman (35 SV, 1.92 ERA, 33.3 K%), Whitlock (1.72 ERA, 29.8 K%, 4.5 BB%) and Miller (32.6 K%, 15.0 BB%) offer three strikeout looks. New York's 3.15 bullpen ERA was second: Bednar (35 SV, 2.47 ERA), Headrick (2.18, 30.1 K%) and Blackburn (1.69 over 82 IP). Tim Hill gets grounders but posted 10.4 K% and 1.84 HR/9, making right-handed matchups consequential. Boston's Tyron Guerrero went on the IL on the final day; Crochet's possible relief return is unresolved. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#); [Postseason FAQ: Red Sox gear up for latest chapter of The Rivalry](#); [Postseason FAQ: What's next for the Yankees?](#)

What a series win demands

Boston path	New York path
Tolle controls the zone, limits hard airborne contact to Rice; put balls in play against the Yankee infield and reach Boone's less dominant middle relief.	Schlittler and Fried work deep, Rice and right-handed platoon bats punish mistakes from the two Boston lefties, and New York converts extra-base power into early leads.
Abreu/Rafaela turn balls in the gaps into outs; Chapman/Whitlock finish close games. Contreras remains healthy and Anthony/Story add enough offense.	The top of the order reaches base for Rice; speed creates pressure; Bednar and the bridge hold late leads. A Judge return would change the ceiling, but cannot be assumed.

These are tactical inferences from season performance, handedness and projected personnel, not predictions or claims that one club will execute a plan.

Manager desk | four broadcast stories each

Chad Tracy | Boston

The 16-hour promotion

Tracy traveled from Triple-A Worcester after Cora was dismissed, reached Baltimore around 1:30 a.m., and won his first major league game roughly 12 hours later. His father Jim Tracy watched from the stands. [The ultimate callup: Triple-A skipper Tracy takes helm for Sox with dad in stands](#)

He knew the room before he led it

At Worcester, Tracy had managed Anthony, Abreu, Rafaela, Duran and others, giving him established relationships with the young core when he arrived amid a staff upheaval. [The ultimate callup: Triple-A skipper Tracy takes helm for Sox with dad in stands](#)

The turnaround earned the job

A 32-5 surge beginning June 25 and the 15-game streak helped turn a 32-46 team into a playoff club. On September 22 Boston removed his interim label and signed him through 2029 with a 2030 option. [Red Sox award Tracy with 3-year deal](#)

First postseason assignment is a familiar rival

His first playoff series comes in the Bronx against a club Boston swept in late June but lost the season series to 7-6. He chose rookie Tolle for Game 1 and Gray for Game 2 while managing Contreras and Crochet health decisions. [Red Sox-Yankees AL Wild Card Series Game 1 FAQ](#)

Aaron Boone | New York

Eight trips in nine years

The Yankees reached the postseason for the eighth time in Boone's nine seasons, but settled for a Wild Card berth behind Tampa Bay. This is the club's seventh Wild Card round appearance. [Yankees clinch spot in 2026 postseason](#)

He steered through the July skid

New York lost 15 of 20 entering a July 9 shutout against the Rays; Boone and bench coach Brad Ausmus were both ejected that night. The pitching staff kept the club in range through the offensive decline. [Aaron Boone, Brad Ausmus ejected against Rays](#)

The Judge decision is larger than one roster slot

Boone said New York planned for a Wild Card roster without Judge, who had a moderate right calf strain. A DH-only Judge would also rearrange Rice and García/Goldschmidt usage; status requires final roster confirmation. [Postseason FAQ: What's next for the Yankees?](#)

Three-game rotation chess

Boone picked Schlittler over Fried for Game 1, Fried for Game 2, and Cole for a possible Game 3; Rodón may cover relief while awaiting an ALDS start. This choice puts the hottest arm into the opener against Boston. [Cam Schlittler to start Game 1 of AL Wild Card Series](#)

Player story cards | projected roster pool

Three linked broadcast angles for each player below. This is a research pool, not an assertion of the final 26-man rosters.

Availability watches are explicitly marked. A short statistical claim from an uploaded report is paired with a public contextual story link where the uploaded source itself has no public URL in this workspace.

Boston position players

Adley Rutschman

1. [A rare intra-division August catcher blockbuster cost Boston three of its...](#) — A rare intra-division August catcher blockbuster cost Boston three of its top five prospects. [Red Sox swing blockbuster trade with O's for 2019 No. 1 pick Rutschman](#)
2. [His first Boston stint was .222/.278/.410 in 32 games after a stronger...](#) — His first Boston stint was .222/.278/.410 in 32 games after a stronger Baltimore first half. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
3. [His 2026 throwing mark at the trade was 16 caught in 43 attempts, a 37.2% rate.](#) — His 2026 throwing mark at the trade was 16 caught in 43 attempts, a 37.2% rate. [Red Sox swing blockbuster trade with O's for 2019 No. 1 pick Rutschman](#)

Connor Wong

1. [From the opening-day catching pair to postseason backup after Rutschman arrived.](#) — From the opening-day catching pair to postseason backup after Rutschman arrived. [Red Sox finalize 2026 Opening Day roster](#)
2. [He hit .233/.308/.348 in 77 games, a useful contrast to his 2024 offensive high.](#) — He hit .233/.308/.348 in 77 games, a useful contrast to his 2024 offensive high. [2026 Boston Red Sox Statistics](#)
3. [The catchers' framing is a matchup pressure point](#) — The catchers' framing is a matchup pressure point: Boston graded 28th in FanGraphs framing. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)

Willson Contreras

1. [A December trade from St. Louis became Boston's offensive centerpiece](#) — A December trade from St. Louis became Boston's offensive centerpiece: .275/.386/.516, 27 HR. [Willson Contreras in midst of breakout season with Red Sox](#)
2. [His right-hand knuckle bruise sidelined him after September 17](#) — His right-hand knuckle bruise sidelined him after September 17; he returned as DH in the finale. [Red Sox-Yankees AL Wild Card Series Game 1 FAQ](#)
3. [He and Chapman share the 2016 Cubs World Series ring](#) — He and Chapman share the 2016 Cubs World Series ring; Contreras also became a clubhouse leader. [Postseason FAQ: Red Sox gear up for latest chapter of The Rivalry](#)

Nick Sogard

1. [He filled first base while Contreras was out, then shifted back into the...](#) — He filled first base while Contreras was out, then shifted back into the second-base picture. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
2. [The switch-hitter posted a .342 OBP in 66 games with five homers.](#) — The switch-hitter posted a .342 OBP in 66 games with five homers. [2026 Boston Red Sox Statistics](#)
3. [Contact and flexibility make him a short-series option after Seigler's...](#) — Contact and flexibility make him a short-series option after Seigler's injury and Mayer's trade. [Red Sox-Yankees 2026 AL Wild Card Series position-by-position breakdown](#)

Trevor Story

1. [Sports-hernia surgery cost him from mid-May to August 30.](#) — Sports-hernia surgery cost him from mid-May to August 30. [Anthony, Story set to return in finale vs. Yankees](#)
2. [A September comeback included a late go-ahead homer against Texas.](#) — A September comeback included a late go-ahead homer against Texas. [Trevor Story's late homer fuels Red Sox's comeback win over Rangers](#)
3. [The full season line was .235/.271/.351 in 64 games](#) — The full season line was .235/.271/.351 in 64 games; his post-return stretch was better. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)

Caleb Durbin

1. [The Brewers trade brought a 2025 Rookie of the Year finalist to replace...](#) — The Brewers trade brought a 2025 Rookie of the Year finalist to replace Bregman at third. [Red Sox get '25 ROY finalist Durbin from Crew in 6-player trade](#)
2. [A slow early stretch turned into 4.4 bWAR, 25 doubles and strong defense.](#) — A slow early stretch turned into 4.4 bWAR, 25 doubles and strong defense. [Red Sox-Yankees 2026 AL Wild Card Series position-by-position breakdown](#)
3. [He hit the go-ahead homer that extended Boston's July winning streak to 14.](#) — He hit the go-ahead homer that extended Boston's July winning streak to 14. [Source article](#)

Isiah Kiner-Falefa

1. [Boston has a defense-first middle-infield alternative for late leads.](#) — Boston has a defense-first middle-infield alternative for late leads. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
2. [He hit .242 with eight steals in 66 Boston games.](#) — He hit .242 with eight steals in 66 Boston games. [2026 Boston Red Sox Statistics](#)
3. [He played in Toronto's 2025 World Series, a veteran October thread in this...](#) — He played in Toronto's 2025 World Series, a veteran October thread in this roster. [Postseason FAQ: Red Sox gear up for latest chapter of The Rivalry](#)

Jarren Duran

1. [Injuries to Anthony kept him in left field, but his season fell to...](#) — Injuries to Anthony kept him in left field, but his season fell to .207/.266/.361. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
2. [The 2026 line still includes 20 homers, 21 steals, and five triples.](#) — The 2026 line still includes 20 homers, 21 steals, and five triples. [2026 Boston Red Sox Statistics](#)
3. [He was part of Boston's 2025 playoff core, yet could sit against a lefty...](#) — He was part of Boston's 2025 playoff core, yet could sit against a lefty starter. [Red Sox-Yankees AL Wild Card Series Game 1 FAQ](#)

Ceddanne Rafaela

1. [His best offensive season](#) — His best offensive season: .283, 16 HR, 17 steals and 5.7 bWAR. [2026 Boston Red Sox Statistics](#)
2. [The rangy center fielder and Abreu form a Gold Glove outfield friendship.](#) — The rangy center fielder and Abreu form a Gold Glove outfield friendship. [Ceddanne Rafaela, Wilver Abreu Gold Glove winners and best friends](#)
3. [A September quad strain and brief hamstring tightness complicated the run-in](#) — A September quad strain and brief hamstring tightness complicated the run-in; monitor mobility. [Ceddanne Rafaela exits with right hamstring tightness in first game back from injured list](#)

Wilyer Abreu

1. [Boston's bWAR leader among position players at 5.9 with 24 homers and 38...](#) — Boston's bWAR leader among position players at 5.9 with 24 homers and 38 doubles. [2026 Boston Red Sox Statistics](#)
2. [His right-field arm and defense pair with Rafaela's range.](#) — His right-field arm and defense pair with Rafaela's range. [Ceddanne Rafaela, Wilyer Abreu Gold Glove winners and best friends](#)
3. [He hit .164 in his final 20 games, so a powerful season ended with a cold...](#) — He hit .164 in his final 20 games, so a powerful season ended with a cold stretch. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)

Roman Anthony

1. [A torn tendon near his right ring finger cost nearly four months](#) — A torn tendon near his right ring finger cost nearly four months; he returned August 30. [Anthony, Story set to return in finale vs. Yankees](#)
2. [The 22-year-old was already familiar to Tracy from Worcester.](#) — The 22-year-old was already familiar to Tracy from Worcester. [The ultimate callup: Triple-A skipper Tracy takes helm for Sox with dad in stands](#)
3. [His line since return was .262/.321/.476 by FanGraphs, offering a late...](#) — His line since return was .262/.321/.476 by FanGraphs, offering a late lineup boost. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)

Jahmai Jones

1. [A mid-July trade from Detroit yielded a .308/.408/.585 Boston stint over 76 PA.](#) — A mid-July trade from Detroit yielded a .308/.408/.585 Boston stint over 76 PA. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
2. [His right-handed bat is the likely DH counter to Fried in Game 2.](#) — His right-handed bat is the likely DH counter to Fried in Game 2. [Red Sox-Yankees AL Wild Card Series Game 1 FAQ](#)
3. [Overall he had four homers and nine RBI in 37 Red Sox games.](#) — Overall he had four homers and nine RBI in 37 Red Sox games. [2026 Boston Red Sox Statistics](#)

Braiden Ward

1. [A possible postseason pinch-runner set Worcester's Triple-A record with 61...](#) — A possible postseason pinch-runner set Worcester's Triple-A record with 61 steals. [Postseason FAQ: Red Sox gear up for latest chapter of The Rivalry](#)
2. [His roster spot is a tactical choice for one run in a best-of-three.](#) — His roster spot is a tactical choice for one run in a best-of-three. [Postseason FAQ: Red Sox gear up for latest chapter of The Rivalry](#)
3. [Tracy knows the club's Worcester pipeline first-hand](#) — Tracy knows the club's Worcester pipeline first-hand; confirm whether Ward makes the final 26. [The ultimate callup: Triple-A skipper Tracy takes helm for Sox with dad in stands](#)

Boston pitchers and roster candidates

Payton Tolle

1. [The rookie gets Game 1 in the Bronx after a 9-6, 3.03 season.](#) — The rookie gets Game 1 in the Bronx after a 9-6, 3.03 season. [Red Sox-Yankees AL Wild Card Series Game 1 FAQ](#)
2. [He held the Yankees to one run and four hits with 18 strikeouts across 13...](#) — He held the Yankees to one run and four hits with 18 strikeouts across 13 innings in two first-half starts. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
3. [His four-seam-heavy approach and 98 mph heat contrast with Gray and Suárez.](#) — His four-seam-heavy approach and 98 mph heat contrast with Gray and Suárez. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)

Sonny Gray

1. [A trade from St. Louis yielded an 18-5, 2.72 season and 20 quality starts.](#) — A trade from St. Louis yielded an 18-5, 2.72 season and 20 quality starts. [Red Sox-Yankees AL Wild Card Series Game 1 FAQ](#)
2. [He no-hit the Yankees for 7 1/3 innings on June 28](#) — He no-hit the Yankees for 7 1/3 innings on June 28; Boston won all nine of his starts against playoff clubs. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
3. [He struggled as a Yankee in 2017-18](#) — He struggled as a Yankee in 2017-18; now he starts Game 2 against that club. [Red Sox-Yankees AL Wild Card Series Game 1 FAQ](#)

Ranger Suárez

1. [A five-year, \\$140 million signing gave Boston a third October starter.](#) — A five-year, \$140 million signing gave Boston a third October starter. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
2. [He enters with 4-1 and 1.48 ERA across 11 prior postseason outings for...](#) — He enters with 4-1 and 1.48 ERA across 11 prior postseason outings for Philadelphia. [Red Sox-Yankees AL Wild Card Series Game 1 FAQ](#)
3. [His low-90s command and contact management contrast with Tolle's power.](#) — His low-90s command and contact management contrast with Tolle's power. [Red Sox-Yankees AL Wild Card Series Game 1 FAQ](#)

Aroldis Chapman

1. [The former Yankee closed 35 games with a 1.92 ERA in his age-38 season.](#) — The former Yankee closed 35 games with a 1.92 ERA in his age-38 season. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
2. [A lat issue interrupted September, then he returned before October.](#) — A lat issue interrupted September, then he returned before October. [Red Sox-Yankees 2026 AL Wild Card Series position-by-position breakdown](#)
3. [He owns rings with the 2016 Cubs and 2023 Rangers, a rare postseason bridge...](#) — He owns rings with the 2016 Cubs and 2023 Rangers, a rare postseason bridge on a young club. [Postseason FAQ: Red Sox gear up for latest chapter of The Rivalry](#)

Garrett Whitlock

1. [A 1.72 ERA and just 4.5% walk rate made him Chapman's strongest setup bridge.](#) — A 1.72 ERA and just 4.5% walk rate made him Chapman's strongest setup bridge. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
2. [He returned from the injured list and threw a clean eighth against the...](#) — He returned from the injured list and threw a clean eighth against the Yankees August 29. [Whitlock rejoins 'pen before twin bill: Olds optioned after strong debut](#)
3. [One of the few holdovers from Boston's 2021 ALCS team.](#) — One of the few holdovers from Boston's 2021 ALCS team. [Postseason FAQ: Red Sox gear up for latest chapter of The Rivalry](#)

Erik Miller

1. [The Giants deadline pickup supplied another power left-hander after bullpen...](#) — The Giants deadline pickup supplied another power left-hander after bullpen injuries. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
2. [His 32.6% strikeout rate came with a 15.0% walk rate](#) — His 32.6% strikeout rate came with a 15.0% walk rate: high ceiling, traffic risk. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
3. [He moved toward sinker-slider usage and suppressed hard contact.](#) — He moved toward sinker-slider usage and suppressed hard contact. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)

Greg Weissert

1. [The ex-Yankee arrived in the Alex Verdugo trade](#) — The ex-Yankee arrived in the Alex Verdugo trade; this is a direct organizational crossover. [2026 Boston Red Sox Statistics](#)
2. [He gave Boston 60 2/3 innings, a 3.26 ERA and a middle-innings bridge.](#) — He gave Boston 60 2/3 innings, a 3.26 ERA and a middle-innings bridge. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
3. [His 1.19 HR/9 was higher than Chapman, Whitlock or Miller in the uploaded...](#) — His 1.19 HR/9 was higher than Chapman, Whitlock or Miller in the uploaded relief comparison. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)

Brayan Bello

1. [After a 7.18 ERA as a starter, he posted 1.98 as a reliever, often behind an...](#) — After a 7.18 ERA as a starter, he posted 1.98 as a reliever, often behind an opener. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
2. [His ground-ball rate was 52.6%, offering length if an October starter exits...](#) — His ground-ball rate was 52.6%, offering length if an October starter exits early. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
3. [Tracy's former Worcester connection and Pedro Martínez mentorship are...](#) — Tracy's former Worcester connection and Pedro Martínez mentorship are personal angles. [Source article](#)

Jake Bennett

1. [Listed as a postseason bullpen candidate after a season spanning starting...](#) — Listed as a postseason bullpen candidate after a season spanning starting and relief work. [Postseason FAQ: Red Sox gear up for latest chapter of The Rivalry](#)
2. [His opponent chase rate was 37% in the uploaded Remarkable report](#) — His opponent chase rate was 37% in the uploaded Remarkable report; verify role and sample at roster lock. [2026 Boston Red Sox Statistics](#)
3. [The roster decision hinges partly on Crochet's readiness and the number of...](#) — The roster decision hinges partly on Crochet's readiness and the number of long-relief spots. [Postseason FAQ: Red Sox gear up for latest chapter of The Rivalry](#)

Garrett Crochet

1. [The 2025 AL Cy Young runner-up has not pitched in a competitive game since...](#) — The 2025 AL Cy Young runner-up has not pitched in a competitive game since April 25. [Red Sox-Yankees AL Wild Card Series Game 1 FAQ](#)
2. [Shoulder inflammation and a later lat issue limit him to a possible relief role.](#) — Shoulder inflammation and a later lat issue limit him to a possible relief role. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
3. [He threw live batting practice and traveled to New York](#) — He threw live batting practice and traveled to New York; activation must be checked. [Postseason FAQ: Red Sox gear up for latest chapter of The Rivalry](#)

Alec Gamboa

1. [The left-hander appears in Boston's projected postseason relief pool...](#) — The left-hander appears in Boston's projected postseason relief pool, pending the roster. [Postseason FAQ: Red Sox gear up for latest chapter of The Rivalry](#)
2. [His potential place reflects the need to cover Crochet's uncertain availability.](#) — His potential place reflects the need to cover Crochet's uncertain availability. [Postseason FAQ: Red Sox gear up for latest chapter of The Rivalry](#)
3. [If active, verify his recent role, pitch mix and workload before using a...](#) — If active, verify his recent role, pitch mix and workload before using a game-specific anecdote. [Postseason FAQ: Red Sox gear up for latest chapter of The Rivalry](#)

Jovani Morán

1. [Another left-handed bullpen option named in the September series analysis.](#) — Another left-handed bullpen option named in the September series analysis. [Red Sox-Yankees 2026 AL Wild Card Series position-by-position breakdown](#)
2. [His possible roster inclusion gives Boston a lefty alternative if Crochet is...](#) — His possible roster inclusion gives Boston a lefty alternative if Crochet is unavailable. [Postseason FAQ: Red Sox gear up for latest chapter of The Rivalry](#)
3. [The decision is a final-roster question](#) — The decision is a final-roster question; do not treat a projected role as an activation. [Postseason FAQ: Red Sox gear up for latest chapter of The Rivalry](#)

Tanner Houck

1. [Coming off Tommy John surgery, he had not pitched in the majors in 2026 at...](#) — Coming off Tommy John surgery, he had not pitched in the majors in 2026 at the September check. [Postseason FAQ: Red Sox gear up for latest chapter of The Rivalry](#)
2. [A stay-ready bullpen session kept him in the October discussion.](#) — A stay-ready bullpen session kept him in the October discussion. [Postseason FAQ: Red Sox gear up for latest chapter of The Rivalry](#)
3. [He and Whitlock are the remaining connections to Boston's 2021 ALCS staff.](#) — He and Whitlock are the remaining connections to Boston's 2021 ALCS staff. [Postseason FAQ: Red Sox gear up for latest chapter of The Rivalry](#)

New York position players and availability watch

Austin Wells

1. [Despite a .186/.292/.332 season, his receiving and framing keep him behind...](#) — Despite a .186/.292/.332 season, his receiving and framing keep him behind the plate. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
2. [He produced 14 homers but only 32 RBI in 122 games.](#) — He produced 14 homers but only 32 RBI in 122 games. [2026 New York Yankees Statistics](#)
3. [A left-handed catcher against Tolle presents a defense-versus-offense lineup...](#) — A left-handed catcher against Tolle presents a defense-versus-offense lineup decision. [Red Sox-Yankees AL Wild Card Series Game 1 FAQ](#)

Ali Sánchez

1. [The backup catcher is a framing asset even with a .577 OPS in 51 games.](#) — The backup catcher is a framing asset even with a .577 OPS in 51 games. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
2. [He hit .244 in only 92 plate appearances, a small offensive sample.](#) — He hit .244 in only 92 plate appearances, a small offensive sample. [2026 New York Yankees Statistics](#)
3. [A catcher change could prioritize receiving in a low-scoring series.](#) — A catcher change could prioritize receiving in a low-scoring series. [Postseason FAQ: What's next for the Yankees?](#)

Luis García Jr.

1. [New York surrendered four pitchers for the Nationals infielder at the deadline.](#) — New York surrendered four pitchers for the Nationals infielder at the deadline. [Yankees acquire Luis García Jr. from Nationals](#)
2. [His left-handed bat fills first base against righties](#) — His left-handed bat fills first base against righties; FanGraphs cites a 133 wRC+ versus them. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
3. [The 30-homer season offers a second power source after Rice.](#) — The 30-homer season offers a second power source after Rice. [Red Sox-Yankees 2026 AL Wild Card Series position-by-position breakdown](#)

Paul Goldschmidt

1. [The 38-year-old is the right-handed first-base platoon bat against Boston's...](#) — The 38-year-old is the right-handed first-base platoon bat against Boston's lefties. [Red Sox-Yankees AL Wild Card Series Game 1 FAQ](#)
2. [His 2026 line](#) — His 2026 line: 18 homers and .252/.313/.452. [2026 New York Yankees Statistics](#)
3. [He produced a 168 wRC+ against lefties versus 60 against righties.](#) — He produced a 168 wRC+ against lefties versus 60 against righties. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)

Jazz Chisholm Jr.

1. [A right-thumb sprain put his September availability in doubt before his return.](#) — A right-thumb sprain put his September availability in doubt before his return. [Jazz Chisholm Jr. placed on injured list; Anthony Volpe recalled](#)
2. [A career-high 41 steals ranked third in the AL despite offensive regression.](#) — A career-high 41 steals ranked third in the AL despite offensive regression. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
3. [The .231/.312/.399 season and 19 homers fell short of his 2025 power level.](#) — The .231/.312/.399 season and 19 homers fell short of his 2025 power level. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)

Anthony Volpe

1. [He was optioned in August, recalled when Chisholm went on the IL, and...](#) — He was optioned in August, recalled when Chisholm went on the IL, and shifted to second. [Anthony Volpe playing second base in return to Yankees](#)
2. [The Yankees tried him at third late as McMahon and Rosario underperformed.](#) — The Yankees tried him at third late as McMahon and Rosario underperformed. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
3. [His .245/.321/.336 season offers contact and flexibility but little power.](#) — His .245/.321/.336 season offers contact and flexibility but little power. [2026 New York Yankees Statistics](#)

Ryan McMahon

1. [The first full Bronx season yielded .213/.279/.357 and 0.0 bWAR.](#) — The first full Bronx season yielded .213/.279/.357 and 0.0 bWAR. [2026 New York Yankees Statistics](#)
2. [New York's third-base platoon ranked among its weakest offensive positions.](#) — New York's third-base platoon ranked among its weakest offensive positions. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
3. [Boone considered Volpe there, a sign of an unsettled October alignment.](#) — Boone considered Volpe there, a sign of an unsettled October alignment. [Red Sox-Yankees 2026 AL Wild Card Series position-by-position breakdown](#)

Amed Rosario

1. [His right-handed third-base role has not solved the position](#) — His right-handed third-base role has not solved the position: .238/.279/.405. [2026 New York Yankees Statistics](#)
2. [FanGraphs graded him poorly at third in both DRS and FRV.](#) — FanGraphs graded him poorly at third in both DRS and FRV. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
3. [He is an option against Tolle and Suárez, pending final lineup choice.](#) — He is an option against Tolle and Suárez, pending final lineup choice. [Red Sox-Yankees AL Wild Card Series Game 1 FAQ](#)

George Lombard Jr.

1. [The 21-year-old arrived August 4 and displaced Volpe at short.](#) — The 21-year-old arrived August 4 and displaced Volpe at short. [Source article](#)
2. [He hit the Yankees' first grand slam of 2026 in September.](#) — He hit the Yankees' first grand slam of 2026 in September. [Source article](#)
3. [His soccer background appeared in a remarkable slide on a wild pitch.](#) — His soccer background appeared in a remarkable slide on a wild pitch. [George Lombard Jr.'s amazing slide to score on a wild pitch](#)

José Caballero

1. [A 34-steal season gives Boone a late-game speed weapon.](#) — A 34-steal season gives Boone a late-game speed weapon. [2026 New York Yankees Statistics](#)
2. [He hit .231/.290/.365 while covering short and third.](#) — He hit .231/.290/.365 while covering short and third. [2026 New York Yankees Statistics](#)
3. [A right-handed utility alternative offers flexibility against Boston's lefties.](#) — A right-handed utility alternative offers flexibility against Boston's lefties. [Postseason FAQ: What's next for the Yankees?](#)

Cody Bellinger

1. [The Yankees retained the former MVP, and he became 2026 All-Star Game MVP.](#) — The Yankees retained the former MVP, and he became 2026 All-Star Game MVP. [Red Sox-Yankees 2026 AL Wild Card Series position-by-position breakdown](#)
2. [A hamstring strain cost him four weeks before his August return.](#) — A hamstring strain cost him four weeks before his August return. [Cody Bellinger activated, while Yankees place Ryan Weathers on injured list](#)
3. [His 4.6 bWAR and elite left-field defense help cover Judge's absence.](#) — His 4.6 bWAR and elite left-field defense help cover Judge's absence. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)

Spencer Jones

1. [The 6-foot-7 rookie and Ben Rice climbed the system together.](#) — The 6-foot-7 rookie and Ben Rice climbed the system together. [Source article](#)
2. [He hit 11 homers and stole 10 bases in 86 games, with a 36.3% strikeout rate.](#) — He hit 11 homers and stole 10 bases in 86 games, with a 36.3% strikeout rate. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
3. [Grisham's hamstring injury opened center field and an October test of...](#) — Grisham's hamstring injury opened center field and an October test of Jones's defense. [George Lombard Jr., Luis García Jr. could be key to Yankees' 2026 postseason run](#)

Heliot Ramos

1. [A deadline trade from San Francisco answered injuries to Judge and Bellinger.](#) — A deadline trade from San Francisco answered injuries to Judge and Bellinger. [Yankees acquire Heliot Ramos from Giants](#)
2. [His first Yankee homer came in a late-August series against Boston.](#) — His first Yankee homer came in a late-August series against Boston. [Heliot Ramos hits first homer as Yankee](#)
3. [After a 2024 All-Star season in San Francisco, his Yankees stint was...](#) — After a 2024 All-Star season in San Francisco, his Yankees stint was .198/.309/.379. [2026 New York Yankees Statistics](#)

Ben Rice

1. [The Cohasset native became a first-time All-Star and carried the Judge-less...](#) — The Cohasset native became a first-time All-Star and carried the Judge-less offense. [Aaron Judge, Cody Bellinger, Cam Schlittler, Ben Rice are Yankees All-Stars](#)
2. [His final B-Ref line shows 41 homers, 97 RBI and .264/.363/.534.](#) — His final B-Ref line shows 41 homers, 97 RBI and .264/.363/.534. [2026 New York Yankees Statistics](#)
3. [He hit six September homers](#) — He hit six September homers; Boone prefers him at DH over first on defense. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)

Giancarlo Stanton

1. [Calf injuries limited him to 24 games and 96 plate appearances.](#) — Calf injuries limited him to 24 games and 96 plate appearances. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
2. [He took live at-bats late in September and could be a right-handed bench bat.](#) — He took live at-bats late in September and could be a right-handed bench bat. [Postseason FAQ: What's next for the Yankees?](#)
3. [His .256/.302/.422 line makes roster space a health and pinch-hitting question.](#) — His .256/.302/.422 line makes roster space a health and pinch-hitting question. [2026 New York Yankees Statistics](#)

Aaron Judge — availability watch

1. [A rib stress fracture cost all of June through August, then a calf strain...](#) — A rib stress fracture cost all of June through August, then a calf strain returned him to the IL. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
2. [New York scored 5.12 runs per game with him, 4.22 without him.](#) — New York scored 5.12 runs per game with him, 4.22 without him. [Red Sox-Yankees AL Wild Card Series Game 1 FAQ](#)
3. [He says he wants to be ready, but Boone planned without him](#) — He says he wants to be ready, but Boone planned without him; check the official 26 before use. [Aaron Judge likely to miss AL Wild Card Series](#)

Trent Grisham — availability watch

1. [A Grade 2 hamstring strain has sidelined him since early September.](#) — A Grade 2 hamstring strain has sidelined him since early September. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
2. [His 18 homers and 59 RBI preceded the injury, but he hit .211.](#) — His 18 homers and 59 RBI preceded the injury, but he hit .211. [2026 New York Yankees Statistics](#)
3. [His return would force a Jones-versus-Grisham center-field decision.](#) — His return would force a Jones-versus-Grisham center-field decision. [Postseason FAQ: What's next for the Yankees?](#)

New York pitchers and roster candidates

Cam Schlittler

1. [The Walpole native and former Red Sox fan starts Game 1 after a 14-6, 1.95...](#) — The Walpole native and former Red Sox fan starts Game 1 after a 14-6, 1.95 season. [Cam Schlittler to start Game 1 of AL Wild Card Series](#)
2. [He eliminated Boston last October with eight scoreless innings and 12...](#) — He eliminated Boston last October with eight scoreless innings and 12 strikeouts. [Red Sox-Yankees AL Wild Card Series Game 1 FAQ](#)
3. [His 98-mph four-seamer helped produce 239 strikeouts in 193 2/3 innings.](#) — His 98-mph four-seamer helped produce 239 strikeouts in 193 2/3 innings. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)

Max Fried

1. [A recurrent left-elbow bone bruise cost roughly 12 weeks, yet he finished at...](#) — A recurrent left-elbow bone bruise cost roughly 12 weeks, yet he finished at 2.80 ERA. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
2. [He allowed four homers in 112 2/3 innings and threw eight shutout innings at...](#) — He allowed four homers in 112 2/3 innings and threw eight shutout innings at Fenway April 22. [Red Sox-Yankees AL Wild Card Series Game 1 FAQ](#)
3. [He follows Schlittler in Game 2, opposite ex-Yankee Sonny Gray.](#) — He follows Schlittler in Game 2, opposite ex-Yankee Sonny Gray. [Cam Schlittler to start Game 1 of AL Wild Card Series](#)

Gerrit Cole

1. [He returned from March 2025 Tommy John surgery for a 10-9, 3.61 season.](#) — He returned from March 2025 Tommy John surgery for a 10-9, 3.61 season. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
2. [A sharp July-August stretch contrasted with 16 homers allowed in 66 innings...](#) — A sharp July-August stretch contrasted with 16 homers allowed in 66 innings outside it. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
3. [Boone has him for possible Game 3 while Rodón waits in relief.](#) — Boone has him for possible Game 3 while Rodón waits in relief. [Postseason FAQ: What's next for the Yankees?](#)

Carlos Rodón

1. [Elbow procedures and later inflammation limited him, but he posted 2.67 ERA.](#) — Elbow procedures and later inflammation limited him, but he posted 2.67 ERA. [Red Sox-Yankees AL Wild Card Series Game 1 FAQ](#)
2. [Opponents hit .173 against him according to the uploaded Remarkable packet.](#) — Opponents hit .173 against him according to the uploaded Remarkable packet. [2026 New York Yankees Statistics](#)
3. [He may work in relief during this round, leaving an ALDS start available.](#) — He may work in relief during this round, leaving an ALDS start available. [Postseason FAQ: What's next for the Yankees?](#)

David Bednar

1. [Acquired from Pittsburgh in 2025, he saved 35 with a 2.47 ERA.](#) — Acquired from Pittsburgh in 2025, he saved 35 with a 2.47 ERA. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
2. [His splitter held hitters to .149 average and .189 slugging.](#) — His splitter held hitters to .149 average and .189 slugging. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
3. [He is the ninth-inning counterweight to Boston's Chapman.](#) — He is the ninth-inning counterweight to Boston's Chapman. [Red Sox-Yankees 2026 AL Wild Card Series position-by-position breakdown](#)

Paul Blackburn

1. [A former starter became a 1.69-ERA setup option over 82 innings.](#) — A former starter became a 1.69-ERA setup option over 82 innings. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
2. [His sinker, cutter and sweeper attack righties](#) — His sinker, cutter and sweeper attack righties; he shifts the mix against lefties. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
3. [The Yankees bullpen workload was low because of deep starts, a postseason...](#) — The Yankees bullpen workload was low because of deep starts, a postseason freshness angle. [Red Sox-Yankees 2026 AL Wild Card Series position-by-position breakdown](#)

Brent Headrick

1. [A 2.18 ERA and 30.1% strikeout rate made him a key left-handed bridge.](#) — A 2.18 ERA and 30.1% strikeout rate made him a key left-handed bridge. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
2. [A high-whiff slider fueled his breakout after only 51 2/3 prior MLB innings.](#) — A high-whiff slider fueled his breakout after only 51 2/3 prior MLB innings. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
3. [Fernando Cruz's injury moved Headrick up the leverage ladder.](#) — Fernando Cruz's injury moved Headrick up the leverage ladder. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)

Tim Hill

1. [The ground-ball specialist induced nearly 69% grounders against both hands.](#) — The ground-ball specialist induced nearly 69% grounders against both hands. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
2. [His 10.4% strikeout rate and seven homers in 104 PA versus righties point to...](#) — His 10.4% strikeout rate and seven homers in 104 PA versus righties point to matchup risk. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
3. [Boone can use him against lefties and protect him from right-handed power.](#) — Boone can use him against lefties and protect him from right-handed power. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)

Michael Fulmer

1. [The late-August addition arrived after the Angels released him.](#) — The late-August addition arrived after the Angels released him. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
2. [His inclusion is a final-roster call after injuries reshaped the bullpen.](#) — His inclusion is a final-roster call after injuries reshaped the bullpen. [Postseason FAQ: What's next for the Yankees?](#)
3. [A former starter gives Boone another potential multi-inning option if active.](#) — A former starter gives Boone another potential multi-inning option if active. [Postseason FAQ: What's next for the Yankees?](#)

John Schreiber

1. [New York claimed him from Kansas City in late August.](#) — New York claimed him from Kansas City in late August. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
2. [The former Red Sox reliever is a direct rivalry crossover.](#) — The former Red Sox reliever is a direct rivalry crossover. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
3. [The uploaded Remarkable packet flags lefties hitting .310 against him](#) — The uploaded Remarkable packet flags lefties hitting .310 against him; verify usage if active. [2026 New York Yankees Statistics](#)

Will Warren

1. [One of only two Yankee starters with more than 25 turns alongside Schlittler.](#) — One of only two Yankee starters with more than 25 turns alongside Schlittler. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
2. [He is converting to a length role for the Wild Card round.](#) — He is converting to a length role for the Wild Card round. [Red Sox-Yankees AL Wild Card Series Game 1 FAQ](#)
3. [A strong September followed a difficult middle stretch, giving Boone bulk...](#) — A strong September followed a difficult middle stretch, giving Boone bulk insurance. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)

Ryan Weathers — roster watch

1. [A flexor strain interrupted his late-August run](#) — A flexor strain interrupted his late-August run; he threw live batting practice Friday. [Postseason FAQ: What's next for the Yankees?](#)
2. [He had a 3.60 ERA in 137 1/3 innings before a potential bullpen switch.](#) — He had a 3.60 ERA in 137 1/3 innings before a potential bullpen switch. [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)
3. [A roster return could change the choice of Fulmer or Schreiber.](#) — A roster return could change the choice of Fulmer or Schreiber. [Postseason FAQ: What's next for the Yankees?](#)

Game-day verification and source notes

Roster and health: Confirm Judge, Stanton, Grisham, Weathers, Contreras, Crochet, Guerrero, Gasper and any projected bullpen or bench candidate against official Wild Card transactions. The September 28 MLB FAQ says Judge is unlikely and Boone is planning without him; it is not a formal roster exclusion. Confirm the Game 2 and conditional Game 3 starters if plans change. [Red Sox-Yankees AL Wild Card Series Game 1 FAQ](#); [Postseason FAQ: What's next for the Yankees?](#); [Postseason FAQ: Red Sox gear up for latest chapter of The Rivalry](#)

Stat reconciliation: The supplied final Baseball Savant and Baseball-Reference totals agree on Rice's 41 home runs; an earlier MLB Network packet says 42. Baseball Savant lists Boston at 163 team homers versus 162 in the FanGraphs preview. This report uses 41 and 163. Team and player counting totals may reflect the 161-game Yankee snapshot in the supplied files. Rates, xERA and pitch mix refer to the full 2026 regular-season source tables unless otherwise labeled.

Primary uploaded research: 2026 Baseball-Reference team and matchup reports; Boston and New York Baseball Savant team pages; Tolle and Schlittler Savant profiles; September 28 MLB Network Research Packet and MLB Remarkable reports. These were provided by the user. Free live headlines throughout point to MLB.com and FanGraphs for narrative context. A supplied Pinstripe Alley article dated August 23, 2024 was excluded from 2026 claims.

Key public source index: [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#) · [Red Sox-Yankees AL Wild Card Series Game 1 FAQ](#) · [2026 Boston Red Sox Statistics](#) · [2026 New York Yankees Statistics](#) · [Red Sox award Tracy with 3-year deal](#) · [Yankees' rotation has been strength of 2026 team](#) · [Aaron Judge likely to miss AL Wild Card Series](#)

SECTION 02

HITTERS & POSITION PLAYERS

Lineups, player stories, opponent context and team snapshots

New York Yankees hitters

Boston Red Sox hitters

New York Yankees Position Players Gold Standard

AL WILD CARD SERIES • SEPTEMBER 29, 2026

TEAM SNAPSHOT	OPPOSING STARTER PLAN
93-68 in the supplied 161-game snapshot; +138 run differential; .235/.311/.409 (.720 OPS), 223 HR, 153 SB. 4.59 runs per game, 9.5% BB, 24.7% K. 46-34 home, 47-34 road; 35-20 vs LH starters; 17-22 one-run. 2025: reached postseason. Judge's health left Rice and the rotation with outsized responsibility.	LHP Payton Tolle starts Game 1. Four-seam-heavy power profile around 98 mph. Boston also lines up Sonny Gray for Game 2 and could use Ranger Suárez in Game 3. Match hitter handedness and pitch location before drawing conclusions.

HOW TO READ THIS REPORT

The supplied nine-man working order leads. Each bordered card follows the Braves model: current, prior and career lines; head-to-head season sample; scoops; matchup attack; two live story headlines; school, draft, contract, awards, position history, bio and season role. 2026 lines are through the completed regular season; acquired-player stint is specified. Verify official Game 1 lineup and active roster.

WORKING STARTERS

Paul Goldschmidt • Cody Bellinger • Heliot Ramos • Ben Rice • Amed Rosario • Spencer Jones • George Lombard Jr. • Austin Wells • Anthony Volpe

ADDITIONAL POSITION-PLAYER POOL

Luis García Jr., Jazz Chisholm Jr., Ryan McMahon, José Caballero, Giancarlo Stanton, Trent Grisham, Aaron Judge. These are reserve/availability candidates, not asserted members of the finalized Wild Card roster.

BROADCAST PRIORITIES

Goldschmidt's lefty platoon edge, Rice's 41-homer power and 7-for-43 Boston line, the rookie Jones-Lombard axis, and Judge's roster status. Head-to-head samples appear within each card.

1. Paul Goldschmidt | No. 48 | Age 39 | 1B | B/T R/R | Pron: GOLD-shmidt**Height:** 6' 2" | **Weight:** 225 lb | **Born:** 1987-09-10 | **Hometown:** Wilmington, DE, USA | **MLB debut:** 2011-08-01**2026:** 105 G .252/.313/.452 OPS .765 HR 18 RBI 52 SB 1**2025:** 146 G .274/.328/.403 OPS .731 HR 10 RBI 45 SB 5**Career:** 2179 G .286/.375/.501 OPS .876 HR 390 RBI 1284 SB 175**VS. BOS IN 2026:** 8-for-38, .211/.250/.395, 2 HR, 7 RBI (10 G); descriptive sample.**SCOUT SCOOPS:** .967 OPS against lefties in the uploaded MLB Remarkable packet; .791 SLG on fastballs versus lefties, third among its qualifying pool. 168 wRC+ against lefties versus 60 against righties in the supplied FanGraphs series preview. 2026: 18 HR in 105 games after 10 HR in 2025; 1 SB this season.**MATCHUP ATTACK:** Against Tolle, look for a fastball in the zone early. The lefty split is relevant, but the 2026 Boston line is a separate 38-AB sample; avoid treating either as a direct Tolle projection.**FREE-ACCESS STORIES:** [Goldschmidt appreciates every day in pinstripes](#) | [How Goldschmidt's 2026 rebound works](#)**SCHOOL / HOMETOWN / FAMOUS ALUMNI / CONNECTIONS:** Wilmington, Delaware-born; grew up in Texas; The Woodlands HS; Texas State University. Arizona selected him in round 8 of the 2009 Draft. The 2022 NL MVP has faced Boston from both leagues. Texas State alumnus Hunter Pence is a useful school connection. He returned to New York on a one-year deal for 2026.**DRAFT / ENTRY NEIGHBORHOOD:** Arizona selected him in round 8 of the 2009 Draft.**CONTRACT STATUS:** One-year Yankees contract for 2026; re-signed February 2026.**AWARDS - AMATEUR / MiLB / MLB:** 7 All-Star selections; 2022 NL MVP; 4 Gold Gloves; 5 Silver Sluggers.**POSITION EVOLUTION:** Established role at 1B; club usage adjusted to roster needs.**BIO NOTE:** Raised in Texas; his one-year return followed a long career with Arizona and St. Louis.**2026 VALUE / ROLE:** Right-handed veteran first-base bat and defensive option against Boston's left-handed starting plan. .967 OPS against lefties in the uploaded MLB Remarkable packet; .791 SLG on fastballs versus lefties, third among its qualifying pool.**2. Cody Bellinger | No. 35 | Age 31 | LF | B/T L/L | Pron: BELL-in-ger****Height:** 6' 3" | **Weight:** 204 lb | **Born:** 1995-07-13 | **Hometown:** Scottsdale, AZ, USA | **MLB debut:** 2017-04-25**2026:** 132 G .264/.338/.429 OPS .767 HR 17 RBI 73 SB 12**2025:** 152 G .272/.334/.480 OPS .814 HR 29 RBI 98 SB 13**Career:** 1289 G .261/.334/.478 OPS .812 HR 242 RBI 768 SB 116**VS. BOS IN 2026:** 9-for-45, .200/.265/.267, 1 HR, 3 RBI (13 G); descriptive sample.**SCOUT SCOOPS:** 2026 MLB Remarkable: .256 OBP when leading off an inning, third lowest in the AL qualifying pool. MLB Remarkable credits him with 98% of defensive plays since 2025, best in its comparison pool. 12-for-18 on steals in 2026; his 2025 season produced 29 homers versus 17 this year.**MATCHUP ATTACK:** Tolle's elevated 98 mph four-seam is the first decision. Do not turn a broad defensive or season split into a Tolle-specific claim; force a strike before committing to the high heater.**FREE-ACCESS STORIES:** [Bellinger takes home 2026 All-Star Game MVP](#) | [Bellinger returns after four-week hamstring absence](#)**SCHOOL / HOMETOWN / FAMOUS ALUMNI / CONNECTIONS:** Scottsdale, Arizona; Hamilton HS. Dodgers selected him in round 4 of the 2013 Draft. Son of former Yankee Clay Bellinger. Returned to New York for 2026; left-field defense became particularly important while Judge missed time.**DRAFT / ENTRY NEIGHBORHOOD:** Dodgers selected him in round 4 of the 2013 Draft.**CONTRACT STATUS:** Long-term Yankees free-agent agreement for 2026 onward.**AWARDS - AMATEUR / MiLB / MLB:** 2017 NL Rookie of the Year; 2019 NL MVP; 2026 All-Star Game MVP; Gold Glove winner.**POSITION EVOLUTION:** Established role at LF; club usage adjusted to roster needs.**BIO NOTE:** Clay Bellinger, his father, won World Series rings with the Yankees; Cody won the 2026 All-Star Game MVP.**2026 VALUE / ROLE:** Left-handed outfielder with broad defensive value, contact and pull-side power; hamstring injury interrupted the second half. 2026 MLB Remarkable: .256 OBP when leading off an inning, third lowest in the AL qualifying pool.

3. Heliot Ramos | No. 34 | Age 27 | RF | B/T R/R | Pron: HEH-lee-oht RAH-mohs

Height: 5' 11" | **Weight:** 235 lb | **Born:** 1999-09-07 | **Hometown:** Humacao, Puerto Rico | **MLB debut:** 2022-04-10

2026: 38 G .198/.309/.379 OPS .688 HR 4 RBI 12 SB 1

2025: 157 G .256/.328/.400 OPS .728 HR 21 RBI 69 SB 6

Career: 424 G .253/.315/.417 OPS .732 HR 57 RBI 189 SB 16

VS. BOS IN 2026: 3-for-7, .429/.667/1.000, 1 HR, 3 RBI (4 G); descriptive sample.

SCOUT SCOOPS: Full 2026 combined line and NYY-only line are separated below; his post-trade sample is 116 AB. 57% ground-ball rate on fastballs, sixth highest in the uploaded MLB Remarkable qualifying pool. 39 K in 136 PA as a Yankee; one steal in the New York stint.

MATCHUP ATTACK: Seek lift on hittable fastballs; the ground-ball tendency limits damage. His 7 AB against Boston are an especially small sample despite the loud slash line.

FREE-ACCESS STORIES: [Yankees acquire Ramos from the Giants](#) | [Ramos hits his first home run in pinstripes](#)

SCHOOL / HOMETOWN / FAMOUS ALUMNI / CONNECTIONS: Born Maunabo, Puerto Rico; Leadership Christian Academy. Giants selected him 19th overall in the 2017 Draft. A 2024 Giants All-Star acquired on August 3, 2026 for prospects Kaeden Kent and Henry Lalane; Kent is Jeff Kent's son.

DRAFT / ENTRY NEIGHBORHOOD: Giants selected him 19th overall in the 2017 Draft.

CONTRACT STATUS: Club-controlled; acquired from San Francisco, August 2026.

AWARDS - AMATEUR / MiLB / MLB: 2024 NL All-Star.

POSITION EVOLUTION: Established role at RF; club usage adjusted to roster needs.

BIO NOTE: His first Yankee homer came against Boston on August 31 after a slow first month in pinstripes.

2026 VALUE / ROLE: Right-handed corner outfielder and deadline injury replacement. The full-season line obscures the difficult first 38 games in New York. Full 2026 combined line and NYY-only line are separated below; his post-trade sample is 116 AB.

4. Ben Rice | No. 22 | Age 27 | DH | B/T L/R | Pron: RYCE

Height: 6' 2" | **Weight:** 228 lb | **Born:** 1999-02-22 | **Hometown:** Cohasset, MA, USA | **MLB debut:** 2024-06-18

2026: 154 G .264/.363/.534 OPS .897 HR 41 RBI 97 SB 3

2025: 138 G .255/.337/.499 OPS .836 HR 26 RBI 65 SB 3

Career: 342 G .248/.340/.497 OPS .837 HR 74 RBI 185 SB 6

VS. BOS IN 2026: 7-for-43, .163/.217/.256, 1 HR, 4 RBI (12 G); descriptive sample.

SCOUT SCOOPS: .757 SLG on elevated fastballs, best in the uploaded MLB Remarkable qualifying pool. .750 SLG on high 95+ mph pitches and 1.029 SLG when pitcher behind (same packet). 41 HR are verified in the official MLB season feed; 3 SB and 1 CS.

MATCHUP ATTACK: Do not rely on fastball elevation alone against him: Rice has damaged exactly that band. Tolle is a same-side power lefty; examine actual pitch location and count before any hitter-pitcher comparison.

FREE-ACCESS STORIES: [Rice reaches 41 homers with two against Tampa Bay](#) | [The Red Sox nearly drafted Ben Rice](#)

SCHOOL / HOMETOWN / FAMOUS ALUMNI / CONNECTIONS: Born Cohasset, Massachusetts; Dartmouth College. Yankees selected him in round 12 of the 2021 Draft. Grew up a Yankees fan in Red Sox territory; Boston showed draft interest. He and Spencer Jones advanced together through New York's minor league system.

DRAFT / ENTRY NEIGHBORHOOD: Yankees selected him in round 12 of the 2021 Draft.

CONTRACT STATUS: Pre-arbitration homegrown player; drafted by New York, 2021.

AWARDS - AMATEUR / MiLB / MLB: First-time AL All-Star in 2026; 41 HR and 97 RBI.

POSITION EVOLUTION: Drafted as a catcher; developed first base and DH use.

BIO NOTE: The Cohasset native rooted for New York amid Red Sox fans; Boston nearly drafted him.

2026 VALUE / ROLE: Left-handed power focal point with Judge out; catcher/first-base background, used at DH in the supplied lineup. .757 SLG on elevated fastballs, best in the uploaded MLB Remarkable qualifying pool.

5. Amed Rosario | No. 14 | Age 30 | 3B | B/T R/R | Pron: ah-MED roh-SAH-ree-oh**Height:** 6' 1" | **Weight:** 227 lb | **Born:** 1995-11-20 | **Hometown:** Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic | **MLB debut:** 2017-08-01**2026:** 87 G .238/.279/.405 OPS .684 HR 10 RBI 34 SB 3**2025:** 63 G .276/.309/.436 OPS .745 HR 6 RBI 23 SB 1**Career:** 1092 G .271/.306/.400 OPS .706 HR 79 RBI 423 SB 113**VS. BOS IN 2026:** 11-for-35, .314/.375/.400, 1 HR, 7 RBI (12 G); descriptive sample.**SCOUT SCOOPS:** .279 OBP overall in MLB Remarkable, tied for 28th lowest in its qualifying pool. Chased 52% of breaking pitches out of the zone versus lefties, fourth highest in the packet. 3 SB and 1 CS; 10 homers in 87 games, but the Boston sample is better than the season baseline.**MATCHUP ATTACK:** His 11-for-35 against Boston deserves attention, but Tolle can exploit chase with breaking pitches that finish outside the zone. Do not assume the team-level split describes his Tolle at-bats.**FREE-ACCESS STORIES:** [Rosario comes to the Yankees from Washington](#) | [Rosario's two-homer game energizes New York](#)**SCHOOL / HOMETOWN / FAMOUS ALUMNI / CONNECTIONS:** Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; signed by the Mets as an international amateur in 2012. Played for the Mets, Cleveland, Dodgers, Rays and Nationals before joining New York in 2025; re-signed as a right-handed infield option for 2026.**DRAFT / ENTRY NEIGHBORHOOD:** Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; signed by the Mets as an international amateur in 2012.**CONTRACT STATUS:** Veteran deal; re-signed by the Yankees for 2026.**AWARDS - AMATEUR / MiLB / MLB:** Former top prospect; 2026 value rests on matchup use rather than award pedigree.**POSITION EVOLUTION:** Established role at 3B; club usage adjusted to roster needs.**BIO NOTE:** Has moved between multiple clubs and infield spots; his two-homer April game showed remaining impact.**2026 VALUE / ROLE:** Right-handed third-base platoon bat; offense and defense at third have both been uneven. .279 OBP overall in MLB Remarkable, tied for 28th lowest in its qualifying pool.**6. Spencer Jones | No. 78 | Age 25 | CF | B/T L/L | Pron: JOHNZ****Height:** 6' 7" | **Weight:** 240 lb | **Born:** 2001-05-14 | **Hometown:** Encinitas, CA, USA | **MLB debut:** 2026-05-08**2026:** 86 G .245/.313/.429 OPS .742 HR 11 RBI 40 SB 10**2025 MiLB:** 116 G .274/.362/.571 OPS .933 HR 35 RBI 80 SB 29 (all levels); no MLB games.**Career:** 86 G .245/.313/.429 OPS .742 HR 11 RBI 40 SB 10**VS. BOS IN 2026:** 7-for-18, .389/.368/.444, 0 HR, 2 RBI (9 G); descriptive sample.**SCOUT SCOOPS:** 41% miss rate on swings versus righties, second highest in the uploaded MLB Remarkable pool. 36% strikeout rate, third highest in that pool; 32% miss on fastball swings, tied for third highest. 10 SB in 13 attempts; .108 SLG on out-of-zone pitches in the provider note.**MATCHUP ATTACK:** Do not hand him easy fastballs in the zone, but challenge his zone control with Tolle's secondary shape after establishing a strike. His 7-for-18 Boston result is too small to override the season whiff profile.**FREE-ACCESS STORIES:** [Jones and Rice reunite in the Bronx](#) | [Jones makes a loud return against Boston](#)**SCHOOL / HOMETOWN / FAMOUS ALUMNI / CONNECTIONS:** Born Encinitas, California; La Costa Canyon HS; Vanderbilt University. Yankees selected him 25th overall in the 2022 Draft. A 6-foot-7 left-handed rookie who advanced with Ben Rice in the farm system; came up amid outfield injuries. Vanderbilt alumni include David Price and Dansby Swanson.**DRAFT / ENTRY NEIGHBORHOOD:** Yankees selected him 25th overall in the 2022 Draft.**CONTRACT STATUS:** Pre-arbitration rookie; drafted by New York, 2022.**AWARDS - AMATEUR / MiLB / MLB:** 2023 and 2024 Futures Game selections.**POSITION EVOLUTION:** Established role at CF; club usage adjusted to roster needs.**BIO NOTE:** A 6-foot-7 Vanderbilt product whose first MLB extra-base hit came against Boston.**2026 VALUE / ROLE:** Size, raw power and running ability are striking; swing-and-miss and center-field reads remain part of the development story. 41% miss rate on swings versus righties, second highest in the uploaded MLB Remarkable pool.

7. George Lombard Jr. | No. 96 | Age 21 | SS | B/T R/R | Pron: LOM-bard

Height: 6' 2" | Weight: 190 lb | Born: 2005-06-02 | Hometown: Miami, FL, USA | MLB debut: 2026-08-04

2026: 42 G .237/.285/.414 OPS .699 HR 7 RBI 22 SB 2

2025 MiLB: 132 G .235/.367/.381 OPS .748 HR 9 RBI 49 SB 35 (all levels); no MLB games.

Career: 42 G .237/.285/.414 OPS .699 HR 7 RBI 22 SB 2

VS. BOS IN 2026: 1-for-7, .143/.250/.143, 0 HR, 0 RBI (3 G); descriptive sample.

SCOUT SCOOPS: Seven HR in 152 AB after his August callup; two steals and one caught stealing. Recent two-strike SLG .500 over 14 days in the uploaded MLB Remarkable packet, a short window. The packet also marks an 11.0 K:BB ratio over that span, a counterweight to the recent power.

MATCHUP ATTACK: Make him show consistent strike-zone decisions before offering a strike early. Only seven 2026 at-bats versus Boston, so use the opponent line as a note rather than an evaluation.

FREE-ACCESS STORIES: [Lombard hits Yankees' first grand slam of 2026](#) | [Soccer skills surface in remarkable slide](#)

SCHOOL / HOMETOWN / FAMOUS ALUMNI / CONNECTIONS: Born Miami, Florida; Gulliver Prep. Yankees selected him 26th overall in the 2023 Draft. Father George Lombard Sr. played in MLB and coaches for Detroit; younger brother Jacob went 14th overall to Miami in the 2026 Draft. Soccer background influences his footwork.

DRAFT / ENTRY NEIGHBORHOOD: Yankees selected him 26th overall in the 2023 Draft.

CONTRACT STATUS: Pre-arbitration rookie; drafted by New York, 2023.

AWARDS - AMATEUR / MiLB / MLB: Rookie shortstop promoted August 4; 2026 first MLB season.

POSITION EVOLUTION: Rookie shortstop with a soccer-influenced athletic background.

BIO NOTE: His father coaches in Detroit; brother Jacob was a 2026 first-round pick. He starred in soccer as well as baseball.

2026 VALUE / ROLE: Athletic young shortstop with emerging pull and opposite-field pop; late-season line is only 42 MLB games. Seven HR in 152 AB after his August callup; two steals and one caught stealing.

8. Austin Wells | No. 28 | Age 27 | C | B/T L/R | Pron: WELZ

Height: 6' 1" | Weight: 220 lb | Born: 1999-07-12 | Hometown: Scottsdale, AZ, USA | MLB debut: 2023-09-01

2026: 122 G .186/.292/.332 OPS .624 HR 14 RBI 32 SB 4

2025: 126 G .219/.275/.436 OPS .711 HR 21 RBI 71 SB 5

Career: 382 G .213/.294/.397 OPS .691 HR 52 RBI 171 SB 10

VS. BOS IN 2026: 5-for-35, .143/.139/.314, 2 HR, 9 RBI (12 G); descriptive sample.

SCOUT SCOOPS: .186 AVG in 2026, ninth lowest in uploaded MLB Remarkable qualifying pool. The packet notes .250 on first pitches, tied for tenth lowest. 14 HR and 32 RBI in 122 games; 4 SB and no CS; Boston series includes 2 HR and 9 RBI despite a .143 average.

MATCHUP ATTACK: Tolle's same-side velocity can expose the season's contact issues, but Wells has done run-producing damage against Boston. Catching workload and the 2026 post-IL swing adjustment are relevant.

FREE-ACCESS STORIES: [How Wells became an elite receiver](#) | [Wells works to rediscover his swing after IL stint](#)

SCHOOL / HOMETOWN / FAMOUS ALUMNI / CONNECTIONS: Born Scottsdale, Arizona; Bishop Gorman HS in Las Vegas; University of Arizona. Yankees selected him 28th overall in the 2020 Draft. A Dominican Republic World Baseball Classic contributor in 2026; developed receiving with New York's catching staff after being viewed as bat-first.

DRAFT / ENTRY NEIGHBORHOOD: Yankees selected him 28th overall in the 2020 Draft.

CONTRACT STATUS: Club-controlled; drafted by New York, 2020.

AWARDS - AMATEUR / MiLB / MLB: 2026 All-WBC Tournament Team; his receiving value exceeds this year's batting line.

POSITION EVOLUTION: Catcher whose receiving became a carrying tool.

BIO NOTE: Once viewed as a bat-first prospect, he became a high-value receiver through work with Yankees coaches.

2026 VALUE / ROLE: Left-handed catcher whose framing and staff work remained valuable while his offense lagged. .186 AVG in 2026, ninth lowest in uploaded MLB Remarkable qualifying pool.

9. Anthony Volpe No. 11 Age 25 2B B/T R/R Pron: VOL-pee	
Height: 5' 10" Weight: 197 lb Born: 2001-04-28 Hometown: New York, NY, USA MLB debut: 2023-03-30	
2026: 70 G .245/.321/.336 OPS .657 HR 2 RBI 28 SB 12	
2025: 153 G .212/.272/.391 OPS .663 HR 19 RBI 72 SB 18	
Career: 542 G .225/.288/.374 OPS .662 HR 54 RBI 220 SB 82	
VS. BOS IN 2026: 2-for-17, .118/.250/.176, 0 HR, 0 RBI (6 G); descriptive sample.	
SCOUT SCOOPS: 12 SB in 16 attempts in 70 games; speed is meaningful despite a .658 OPS. MLB Remarkable: 36% of his strikeouts came against 95+ mph fastballs; note its underlying population. The packet says 15 attempted steals of third since 2025, tied for eighth most.	
MATCHUP ATTACK: Tolle can challenge him with power early and finish outside the zone. Volpe's 2-for-17 versus Boston is a limited sample; his baserunning threat can still matter once aboard.	
FREE-ACCESS STORIES: Volpe changes positions on return to Yankees Volpe and Jack Leiter's Delbarton bond	
SCHOOL / HOMETOWN / FAMOUS ALUMNI / CONNECTIONS: Born New York, New York; Delbarton School, Morristown, New Jersey. Yankees selected him 30th overall in the 2019 Draft. High-school teammate of Rangers pitcher Jack Leiter. Was optioned in 2026, then recalled when Jazz Chisholm Jr. went on the IL and shifted off shortstop.	
DRAFT / ENTRY NEIGHBORHOOD: Yankees selected him 30th overall in the 2019 Draft.	
CONTRACT STATUS: Club-controlled; drafted by New York, 2019.	
AWARDS - AMATEUR / MiLB / MLB: 2023 AL Gold Glove at shortstop.	
POSITION EVOLUTION: Shortstop moved to second base after August recall.	
BIO NOTE: He and pitcher Jack Leiter played together at Delbarton before becoming MLB first-round picks.	
2026 VALUE / ROLE: Right-handed middle-infield defender and runner; the 2026 offensive sample is 70 games and the power fell from 19 HR in 2025 to 2. 12 SB in 16 attempts in 70 games; speed is meaningful despite a .658 OPS.	

ADDITIONAL POSITION-PLAYER POOL / AVAILABILITY WATCH

10. Luis García Jr. | No. 26 | Age 26 | 1B | B/T L/R | Pron: García

Height: 6' 1" | **Weight:** 216 lb | **Born:** 2000-05-16 | **Hometown:** New York, NY, USA | **MLB debut:** 2020-08-14

2026: 147 G .277/.309/.521 OPS .830 HR 30 RBI 92 SB 5

2025: 139 G .252/.289/.412 OPS .701 HR 16 RBI 66 SB 14

Career: 751 G .268/.301/.432 OPS .733 HR 88 RBI 361 SB 54

BIO / ENTRY: Washington development product; traded to New York at the 2026 deadline.

SCOUT SCOOPS: Left-handed first-base option after 30 combined 2026 homers.

2026 ROLE: Left-handed first-base option after 30 combined 2026 homers.

FREE-ACCESS STORIES: [Yankees acquire Luis García Jr. from Nationals](#) | [George Lombard Jr., Luis García Jr. could be key to Yankees' 2026 postseason run](#)

11. Jazz Chisholm Jr. | No. 13 | Age 28 | 2B | B/T L/R | Pron: CHIZ-um

Height: 5' 11" | **Weight:** 184 lb | **Born:** 1998-02-01 | **Hometown:** Nassau, Bahamas | **MLB debut:** 2020-09-01

2026: 137 G .231/.312/.399 OPS .711 HR 19 RBI 55 SB 41

2025: 130 G .242/.332/.481 OPS .813 HR 31 RBI 80 SB 31

Career: 716 G .245/.315/.444 OPS .759 HR 127 RBI 363 SB 171

BIO / ENTRY: Bahamian infielder/outfielder; right-thumb injury affected September.

SCOUT SCOOPS: 41 steals remain a late-inning weapon; health and starting role require confirmation.

2026 ROLE: 41 steals remain a late-inning weapon; health and starting role require confirmation.

FREE-ACCESS STORIES: [Jazz Chisholm Jr. placed on injured list; Anthony Volpe recalled](#) | [Postseason FAQ: What's next for the Yankees?](#)

ADDITIONAL POSITION-PLAYER POOL / AVAILABILITY WATCH

12. Ryan McMahon | No. 19 | Age 31 | 3B | B/T L/R | Pron: mick-MAN

Height: 6' 2" | Weight: 211 lb | Born: 1994-12-14 | Hometown: Yorba Linda, CA, USA | MLB debut: 2017-08-12

2026: 124 G .213/.279/.357 OPS .636 HR 11 RBI 41 SB 3

2025: 154 G .214/.312/.381 OPS .693 HR 20 RBI 53 SB 3

Career: 1188 G .237/.318/.411 OPS .729 HR 155 RBI 511 SB 34

BIO / ENTRY: Former Colorado third baseman; joined New York in 2025.

SCOUT SCOOPS: The .635 OPS left the third-base role unsettled.

2026 ROLE: The .635 OPS left the third-base role unsettled.

FREE-ACCESS STORIES: [Postseason FAQ: What's next for the Yankees?](#) | [Red Sox-Yankees 2026 AL Wild Card Series position-by-position breakdown](#)

13. José Caballero | No. 72 | Age 30 | INF | B/T R/R | Pron: kah-bah-YAIR-oh

Height: 5' 9" | Weight: 190 lb | Born: 1996-08-30 | Hometown: Las Tablas, Panama | MLB debut: 2023-04-15

2026: 136 G .231/.290/.365 OPS .655 HR 14 RBI 51 SB 34

2025: 126 G .236/.339/.347 OPS .686 HR 5 RBI 36 SB 49

Career: 505 G .229/.309/.348 OPS .657 HR 32 RBI 157 SB 153

BIO / ENTRY: Panama-born utility infielder.

SCOUT SCOOPS: 34-steal 2026 profile makes him a running and coverage option.

2026 ROLE: 34-steal 2026 profile makes him a running and coverage option.

FREE-ACCESS STORIES: [Postseason FAQ: What's next for the Yankees?](#) | [Red Sox-Yankees 2026 AL Wild Card Series position-by-position breakdown](#)

ADDITIONAL POSITION-PLAYER POOL / AVAILABILITY WATCH

14. Giancarlo Stanton | No. 27 | Age 36 | DH/OF | B/T R/R | Pron: STAN-tun

Height: 6' 5" | **Weight:** 245 lb | **Born:** 1989-11-08 | **Hometown:** Panorama, CA, USA | **MLB debut:** 2010-06-08

2026: 24 G .256/.302/.422 OPS .724 HR 3 RBI 14 SB 1

2025: 77 G .273/.350/.594 OPS .944 HR 24 RBI 66 SB 0

Career: 1750 G .258/.345/.527 OPS .872 HR 456 RBI 1183 SB 43

BIO / ENTRY: Veteran slugger and former NL MVP.

SCOUT SCOOPS: Limited to a 90-at-bat 2026 sample; confirm game-day availability.

2026 ROLE: Limited to a 90-at-bat 2026 sample; confirm game-day availability.

FREE-ACCESS STORIES: [Postseason FAQ: What's next for the Yankees?](#) | [How Yankees can thrive in the playoffs without Aaron Judge](#)

15. Trent Grisham | No. 12 | Age 29 | CF | B/T L/L | Pron: GRISH-um

Height: 5' 10" | **Weight:** 221 lb | **Born:** 1996-11-01 | **Hometown:** Burleson, TX, USA | **MLB debut:** 2019-08-01

2026: 121 G .211/.308/.395 OPS .703 HR 18 RBI 59 SB 9

2025: 143 G .235/.348/.464 OPS .812 HR 34 RBI 74 SB 3

Career: 887 G .217/.319/.399 OPS .718 HR 122 RBI 379 SB 59

BIO / ENTRY: Gold Glove center fielder; hamstring issue affected late-season availability.

SCOUT SCOOPS: 18 homers in 2026 after 34 in 2025; defense and health shape role.

2026 ROLE: 18 homers in 2026 after 34 in 2025; defense and health shape role.

FREE-ACCESS STORIES: [Postseason FAQ: What's next for the Yankees?](#) | [How Yankees can thrive in the playoffs without Aaron Judge](#)

ADDITIONAL POSITION-PLAYER POOL / AVAILABILITY WATCH

16. Aaron Judge | No. 99 | Age 34 | RF/DH | B/T R/R | Pron: JUHJ

Height: 6' 7" | Weight: 282 lb | Born: 1992-04-26 | Hometown: Linden, CA, USA | MLB debut: 2016-08-13

2026: 66 G .241/.360/.511 OPS .871 HR 18 RBI 41 SB 5

2025: 152 G .331/.457/.688 OPS 1.145 HR 53 RBI 114 SB 12

Career: 1211 G .291/.410/.610 OPS 1.020 HR 386 RBI 871 SB 70

BIO / ENTRY: Fresno State product and franchise captain.

SCOUT SCOOPS: Rib and calf injuries limited him to 66 games; Wild Card availability must be confirmed.

2026 ROLE: Rib and calf injuries limited him to 66 games; Wild Card availability must be confirmed.

FREE-ACCESS STORIES: [Aaron Judge likely to miss AL Wild Card Series](#) | [How Yankees can thrive in the playoffs without Aaron Judge](#)

Boston Red Sox Position Players Gold Standard

AL WILD CARD SERIES • SEPTEMBER 29, 2026

TEAM SNAPSHOT	OPPOSING STARTER PLAN
87-75; +78 run differential; .245/.319/.397 (.716 OPS), 163 HR, 107 SB. 4.25 runs per game, 8.5% BB, 21.7% K. 41-40 home, 46-35 road; 26-17 vs LH starters; 21-21 one-run. 2025: reached postseason. Run prevention and outfield defense offset a September scoring dip.	RHP Cam Schlichtler starts Game 1: 1.95 ERA and 239 strikeouts; four-seamer around 98 mph. Max Fried is lined up for Game 2, with Gerrit Cole possible for Game 3. Boston's lineup must avoid upper-zone expansion and force quality strikes.

HOW TO READ THIS REPORT

The supplied nine-man working order leads. Each bordered card follows the Braves model: current, prior and career lines; head-to-head season sample; scoops; matchup attack; two live story headlines; school, draft, contract, awards, position history, bio and season role. 2026 lines are through the completed regular season; acquired-player stint is specified. Verify official Game 1 lineup and active roster.

WORKING STARTERS

Roman Anthony • Ceddanne Rafaela • Adley Rutschman • Willson Contreras • Wilyer Abreu • Trevor Story • Jarren Duran • Caleb Durbin • Nick Sogard

ADDITIONAL POSITION-PLAYER POOL

Connor Wong, Isiah Kiner-Falefa, Jahmai Jones, Braiden Ward (roster watch). These are reserve/availability candidates, not asserted members of the finalized Wild Card roster.

BROADCAST PRIORITIES

Boston's defensive outfield, Contreras's first-base readiness, and the right-handed response to Schlichtler's four-seam. Head-to-head samples appear within the player cards.

1. Roman Anthony | No. 19 | Age 22 | LF | B/T L/R | Pron: AN-thuh-nee**Height:** 6' 3" | **Weight:** 200 lb | **Born:** 2004-05-13 | **Hometown:** West Palm Beach, FL, USA | **MLB debut:** 2025-06-09**2026:** 55 G .245/.339/.396 OPS .735 HR 5 RBI 15 SB 2**2025:** 71 G .292/.396/.463 OPS .859 HR 8 RBI 32 SB 4**Career:** 126 G .271/.371/.433 OPS .804 HR 13 RBI 47 SB 6**VS. NYY IN 2026:** 2-for-7, .286/.375/.429, 0 HR, 0 RBI (2 G); descriptive sample.**SCOUT SCOOPS:** 2026 .245/.339/.396 in 55 G; 5 HR, 15 RBI. His .262/.321/.476 stretch after return was noted by FanGraphs.**MATCHUP ATTACK:** Schlittler attacks with a 98-mph four-seam; identify the high fastball and avoid expanding above the zone.**FREE-ACCESS STORIES:** [Anthony and Story return in the finale](#) | [Tracy's Worcester ties to Boston's young core](#)**SCHOOL / HOMETOWN / FAMOUS ALUMNI / CONNECTIONS:** West Palm Beach, Florida; Marjory Stoneman Douglas HS. Boston selected him 79th overall in round 2 of the 2022 Draft. Former Worcester player under Chad Tracy. Anthony returned August 30 after a right ring-finger tendon injury.**DRAFT / ENTRY NEIGHBORHOOD:** Boston selected him 79th overall in round 2 of the 2022 Draft.**CONTRACT STATUS:** Pre-arbitration; drafted by Boston in 2022.**AWARDS - AMATEUR / MiLB / MLB:** Top prospect entering MLB; young left-handed corner bat.**POSITION EVOLUTION:** Corner outfield, with left and right field work.**BIO NOTE:** The 22-year-old returned for the stretch run after missing nearly four months.**2026 VALUE / ROLE:** The season line is only 55 games. His return restores a patient left-handed presence to the top of a lineup that struggled to score in September.**2. Ceddanne Rafaela | No. 3 | Age 26 | CF | B/T R/R | Pron: suh-DAH-N ruh-FYE-uh-luh****Height:** 5' 10" | **Weight:** 165 lb | **Born:** 2000-09-18 | **Hometown:** Willemstad, Curacao | **MLB debut:** 2023-08-28**2026:** 138 G .283/.319/.442 OPS .761 HR 16 RBI 70 SB 17**2025:** 156 G .249/.295/.414 OPS .709 HR 16 RBI 63 SB 20**Career:** 474 G .258/.295/.414 OPS .709 HR 49 RBI 213 SB 59**VS. NYY IN 2026:** 9-for-51, .176/.222/.176, 0 HR, 2 RBI (13 G); descriptive sample.**SCOUT SCOOPS:** 2026 .283/.319/.442; 16 HR, 70 RBI, 17 SB. Remarkable packet: 38% of strikeouts on 95+ mph fastballs.**MATCHUP ATTACK:** Schlittler's four-seam averages about 98 mph. Rafaela's speed-band strikeout note aligns broadly, but it is not an individual matchup result.**FREE-ACCESS STORIES:** [Rafaela and Abreu. Gold Glove friends](#) | [Rafaela exits with hamstring tightness](#)**SCHOOL / HOMETOWN / FAMOUS ALUMNI / CONNECTIONS:** Willemstad, Curaçao; Boston international signing in July 2017. Gold Glove outfield partnership and friendship with Willyer Abreu; developed under Tracy at Worcester.**DRAFT / ENTRY NEIGHBORHOOD:** Willemstad, Curaçao; Boston international signing in July 2017.**CONTRACT STATUS:** Long-term Boston extension; originally signed as international amateur.**AWARDS - AMATEUR / MiLB / MLB:** Gold Glove center fielder; 2026 5.7 bWAR in uploaded statistics.**POSITION EVOLUTION:** Middle-infield prospect who became a premium center fielder.**BIO NOTE:** Curaçao baseball tradition includes Andruw Jones and Kenley Jansen; he brings that island connection to center field.**2026 VALUE / ROLE:** A career-best .283 average, 16 homers and 17 steals combine with standout range. September quad and hamstring issues make his mobility a game-day check.

3. Adley Rutschman | No. 31 | Age 28 | C | B/T S/R | Pron: RUTCH-man**Height:** 6' 1" | **Weight:** 230 lb | **Born:** 1998-02-06 | **Hometown:** Portland, OR, USA | **MLB debut:** 2022-05-21**2026:** 32 G .222/.278/.410 OPS .688 HR 5 RBI 13 SB 0**2025:** 90 G .220/.307/.366 OPS .673 HR 9 RBI 29 SB 0**Career:** 604 G .252/.339/.414 OPS .753 HR 74 RBI 290 SB 6**VS. NYY IN 2026:** 3-for-12, .250/.250/.250, 0 HR, 0 RBI (3 G); descriptive sample.**SCOUT SCOOPS:** Boston stint .222/.278/.410 in 32 G; 5 HR, 13 RBI. Full-season line is shown separately below.**MATCHUP ATTACK:** Switch-hitter bats left versus Schlittler. Discipline against the elevated four-seam is central; avoid treating his brief Boston stint as established form.**FREE-ACCESS STORIES:** [Boston trades for Rutschman](#) | [Rutschman debuts for Red Sox](#)**SCHOOL / HOMETOWN / FAMOUS ALUMNI / CONNECTIONS:** Portland, Oregon; Sherwood HS and Oregon State. Baltimore selected him first overall in the 2019 Draft. Former Orioles franchise catcher acquired by Boston in August 2026 for a major prospect package.**DRAFT / ENTRY NEIGHBORHOOD:** Baltimore selected him first overall in the 2019 Draft.**CONTRACT STATUS:** Arbitration-eligible; acquired from Baltimore in August 2026.**AWARDS - AMATEUR / MiLB / MLB:** Former No. 1 overall pick, All-Star and Silver Slugger catcher; College World Series champion at Oregon State.**POSITION EVOLUTION:** Catcher and switch-hitting middle-order bat, with DH appearances.**BIO NOTE:** Oregon State alumni include Jacoby Ellsbury and Michael Conforto. The in-division trade is a central October storyline.**2026 VALUE / ROLE:** The 32-game Boston stint yielded .222/.278/.410 and five homers. His full 2026 combined line is stronger; frame club-specific production clearly.**4. Willson Contreras | No. 40 | Age 34 | 1B | B/T R/R | Pron: WILL-sun kun-TRAIR-us****Height:** 6' 0" | **Weight:** 240 lb | **Born:** 1992-05-13 | **Hometown:** Puerto Cabello, Venezuela | **MLB debut:** 2016-06-17**2026:** 130 G .275/.386/.516 OPS .902 HR 27 RBI 81 SB 3**2025:** 135 G .257/.344/.447 OPS .791 HR 20 RBI 80 SB 5**Career:** 1208 G .260/.356/.466 OPS .822 HR 199 RBI 629 SB 40**VS. NYY IN 2026:** 9-for-47, .191/.269/.404, 2 HR, 9 RBI (13 G); descriptive sample.**SCOUT SCOOPS:** .333 average with two outs, best in the AL in uploaded Remarkable notes; .275/.386/.516 season.**MATCHUP ATTACK:** Right-handed advantage against Tolle is irrelevant here; versus Schlittler, target a four-seam in the zone and refuse elevated chase.**FREE-ACCESS STORIES:** [Contreras leads a Boston breakout](#) | [Red Sox postseason roster and health questions](#)**SCHOOL / HOMETOWN / FAMOUS ALUMNI / CONNECTIONS:** Puerto Cabello, Venezuela; signed by the Cubs as an international amateur in 2009. Former teammate of Boston closer Aroldis Chapman on the 2016 champion Cubs. Acquired from St. Louis in December 2025.**DRAFT / ENTRY NEIGHBORHOOD:** Puerto Cabello, Venezuela; signed by the Cubs as an international amateur in 2009.**CONTRACT STATUS:** Veteran contract acquired by trade from St. Louis; verify remaining terms before broadcast.**AWARDS - AMATEUR / MiLB / MLB:** Multiple All-Star catcher; 2016 World Series champion.**POSITION EVOLUTION:** Former everyday catcher, now primarily first base and DH.**BIO NOTE:** A right-hand bruise interrupted late September; he returned as DH in the regular-season finale.**2026 VALUE / ROLE:** A .901 OPS, 27 homers and 81 RBI made him Boston's central offensive addition. Confirm first-base readiness for Game 1.

5. Willyer Abreu | No. 52 | Age 27 | RF | B/T L/L | Pron: WILL-yer ah-BRAY-oo**Height:** 5' 10" | **Weight:** 215 lb | **Born:** 1999-06-24 | **Hometown:** Maracaibo, Venezuela | **MLB debut:** 2023-08-22**2026:** 157 G .248/.327/.446 OPS .773 HR 24 RBI 76 SB 8**2025:** 115 G .247/.317/.469 OPS .786 HR 22 RBI 69 SB 6**Career:** 432 G .253/.327/.457 OPS .784 HR 63 RBI 217 SB 25**VS. NYY IN 2026:** 10-for-45, .222/.314/.400, 1 HR, 2 RBI (13 G); descriptive sample.**SCOUT SCOOPS:** 2026 .248/.327/.446; 24 HR, 76 RBI, 38 doubles. .164 in his final 20 games per supplied FanGraphs preview.**MATCHUP ATTACK:** Left-handed Abreu faces Schlittler's power fastball; avoid expanding high before a two-strike count.**FREE-ACCESS STORIES:** [Rafaela and Abreu, Gold Glove friends](#) | [Boston's 2026 roster construction](#)**SCHOOL / HOMETOWN / FAMOUS ALUMNI / CONNECTIONS:** Maracaibo, Venezuela; signed by Houston in 2017; traded to Boston in August 2022. Close friend and Gold Glove partner Ceddanne Rafaela; former Astros prospect.**DRAFT / ENTRY NEIGHBORHOOD:** Maracaibo, Venezuela; signed by Houston in 2017; traded to Boston in August 2022.**CONTRACT STATUS:** Club-controlled; acquired in the 2022 Houston trade.**AWARDS - AMATEUR / MiLB / MLB:** Gold Glove right fielder; team-leading 5.9 bWAR among position players in uploaded report.**POSITION EVOLUTION:** Corner outfielder with a powerful throwing arm in right field.**BIO NOTE:** His 38 doubles and 24 homers show the extra-base profile; the final 20 games were a cold offensive stretch.**2026 VALUE / ROLE:** Defense and 76 RBI make him one of Boston's most complete players despite a late slump.**6. Trevor Story | No. 10 | Age 33 | SS | B/T R/R | Pron: STOR-ee****Height:** 6' 1" | **Weight:** 209 lb | **Born:** 1992-11-15 | **Hometown:** Irving, TX, USA | **MLB debut:** 2016-04-04**2026:** 64 G .235/.271/.351 OPS .622 HR 5 RBI 29 SB 5**2025:** 157 G .263/.308/.433 OPS .741 HR 25 RBI 96 SB 31**Career:** 1129 G .263/.325/.482 OPS .807 HR 209 RBI 665 SB 165**VS. NYY IN 2026:** 3-for-13, .231/.286/.308, 0 HR, 0 RBI (4 G); descriptive sample.**SCOUT SCOOPS:** Uploaded Remarkable: 53% chase on breaking balls down and away; 2026 .235/.271/.351 in 64 G.**MATCHUP ATTACK:** Schlittler's fastball velocity demands a tight first-swing zone. Resist breaking balls below and away.**FREE-ACCESS STORIES:** [Anthony and Story return](#) | [Story's late homer fuels comeback](#)**SCHOOL / HOMETOWN / FAMOUS ALUMNI / CONNECTIONS:** Irving, Texas; Irving HS. Colorado selected him 45th overall in the supplemental first round of the 2011 Draft. Boston signed him from Colorado in March 2022; former Rockies teammate of Yankees infielder Ryan McMahon.**DRAFT / ENTRY NEIGHBORHOOD:** Colorado selected him 45th overall in the supplemental first round of the 2011 Draft.**CONTRACT STATUS:** Long-term Boston free-agent signing from 2022.**AWARDS - AMATEUR / MiLB / MLB:** Multiple All-Star and Silver Slugger shortstop.**POSITION EVOLUTION:** Former Rockies shortstop; played second early in Boston before resuming short.**BIO NOTE:** Sports-hernia surgery cost him from mid-May until August 30.**2026 VALUE / ROLE:** Five homers and a .621 OPS in 64 games belie a stronger post-return run; October depends on timing and shortstop defense.

7. Jarren Duran | No. 16 | Age 30 | DH | B/T L/R | Pron: duh-RAN

Height: 6' 0" | Weight: 205 lb | Born: 1996-09-05 | Hometown: Corona, CA, USA | MLB debut: 2021-07-17

2026: 151 G .207/.266/.361 OPS .627 HR 20 RBI 69 SB 21

2025: 157 G .256/.332/.442 OPS .774 HR 16 RBI 84 SB 24

Career: 661 G .254/.314/.432 OPS .746 HR 70 RBI 295 SB 112

VS. NYY IN 2026: 8-for-38, .211/.205/.263, 0 HR, 3 RBI (12 G); descriptive sample.

SCOUT SCOOPS: 20 HR, 69 RBI, 21 SB; .627 OPS in 2026. 2025 line supplies the better baseline.

MATCHUP ATTACK: Versus the right-handed Schlittler, see a strike and avoid fastballs above the barrel; use speed when aboard.

FREE-ACCESS STORIES: [Tracy knows Boston's homegrown core](#) | [Postseason FAQ: Boston's lineup choices](#)

SCHOOL / HOMETOWN / FAMOUS ALUMNI / CONNECTIONS: Corona, California; Cypress HS and Long Beach State. Boston drafted him in round 7 of 2018. Longtime homegrown Boston outfielder; part of the 2025 postseason core.

DRAFT / ENTRY NEIGHBORHOOD: Boston drafted him in round 7 of 2018.

CONTRACT STATUS: Arbitration-eligible homegrown player.

AWARDS - AMATEUR / MiLB / MLB: 2024 All-Star Game MVP and All-Star selection.

POSITION EVOLUTION: Center-field background; left field and DH usage as Rafaela became established in center.

BIO NOTE: His 2026 season combined 20 homers and 21 steals with a sharp drop in on-base production.

2026 VALUE / ROLE: The .207/.266/.361 line was among Boston's biggest offensive disappointments, though speed and extra-base potential remain.

8. Caleb Durbin | No. 5 | Age 26 | 3B | B/T R/R | Pron: DUR-bin

Height: 5' 6" | Weight: 183 lb | Born: 2000-02-22 | Hometown: Lake Forest, IL, USA | MLB debut: 2025-04-18

2026: 153 G .248/.332/.378 OPS .710 HR 13 RBI 64 SB 20

2025: 136 G .256/.334/.387 OPS .721 HR 11 RBI 53 SB 18

Career: 289 G .252/.333/.382 OPS .715 HR 24 RBI 117 SB 38

VS. NYY IN 2026: 8-for-44, .182/.250/.273, 1 HR, 4 RBI (13 G); descriptive sample.

SCOUT SCOOPS: 2026 .248/.332/.378; 13 HR, 64 RBI, 20 SB. 25 doubles and strong third-base metrics in supplied packet.

MATCHUP ATTACK: Keep the elevated four-seam in the zone; Schlittler's velocity should not force early-count expansion.

FREE-ACCESS STORIES: [Red Sox trade for Durbin](#) | [Durbin extends Boston's winning streak](#)

SCHOOL / HOMETOWN / FAMOUS ALUMNI / CONNECTIONS: Lake Forest, Illinois; Lake Forest HS and Washington University in St. Louis. Atlanta drafted him in round 14 of 2021. Traded from Milwaukee to Boston in February 2026; former 2025 NL Rookie of the Year finalist.

DRAFT / ENTRY NEIGHBORHOOD: Atlanta drafted him in round 14 of 2021.

CONTRACT STATUS: Pre-arbitration; acquired in the 2026 Brewers trade.

AWARDS - AMATEUR / MiLB / MLB: 2025 NL Rookie of the Year finalist; strong 2026 third-base defense.

POSITION EVOLUTION: Middle-infield background; became Boston's everyday third baseman.

BIO NOTE: The Brewers trade helped replace Alex Bregman at third base.

2026 VALUE / ROLE: A .710 OPS and 4.4 bWAR reflect more value than the 13-homer total alone. Defense and 20 steals are decisive supporting tools.

9. Nick Sogard | No. 20 | Age 29 | 2B | B/T S/R | Pron: SOH-gard

Height: 6' 1" | **Weight:** 189 lb | **Born:** 1997-09-09 | **Hometown:** Los Angeles, CA, USA | **MLB debut:** 2024-08-02

2026: 66 G .255/.342/.385 OPS .727 HR 5 RBI 19 SB 1

2025: 30 G .260/.317/.344 OPS .661 HR 0 RBI 9 SB 2

Career: 127 G .260/.333/.364 OPS .697 HR 5 RBI 36 SB 6

VS. NYY IN 2026: 4-for-16, .250/.250/.500, 1 HR, 3 RBI (4 G); descriptive sample.

SCOUT SCOOPS: 2026 .255/.342/.385; five HR, 19 RBI in 66 games. Small-volume on-base value.

MATCHUP ATTACK: From either side, prioritize a strike versus Schlittler; his speed makes lazy chase especially costly.

FREE-ACCESS STORIES: [Red Sox–Yankees position-by-position breakdown](#) | [Red Sox postseason FAQ](#)

SCHOOL / HOMETOWN / FAMOUS ALUMNI / CONNECTIONS: Los Angeles, California; Loyola Marymount University. Tampa Bay selected him in round 12 of 2019. Acquired by Boston from Tampa Bay in February 2021; brother of former MLB infielder Eric Sogard.

DRAFT / ENTRY NEIGHBORHOOD: Tampa Bay selected him in round 12 of 2019.

CONTRACT STATUS: Club-controlled; acquired from Tampa Bay.

AWARDS - AMATEUR / MiLB / MLB: Switch-hitting utility infielder; no major individual award in supplied records.

POSITION EVOLUTION: Second base, first base and other infield coverage.

BIO NOTE: Handled first base while Contreras was unavailable late in the season.

2026 VALUE / ROLE: A .342 OBP in 66 games offered needed contact and lineup flexibility as injuries altered the infield.

ADDITIONAL POSITION-PLAYER POOL / AVAILABILITY WATCH

10. Connor Wong | No. 12 | Age 30 | C | B/T R/R | Pron: WONG

Height: 5' 10" | Weight: 190 lb | Born: 1996-05-19 | Hometown: Houston, TX, USA | MLB debut: 2021-06-22

2026: 77 G .233/.308/.348 OPS .656 HR 4 RBI 25 SB 3

2025: 63 G .190/.262/.238 OPS .500 HR 0 RBI 7 SB 2

Career: 425 G .243/.304/.372 OPS .676 HR 27 RBI 128 SB 21

BIO / ENTRY: Acquired from the Dodgers in the Mookie Betts trade.

SCOUT SCOOPS: Catching alternative behind Rutschman with 2026 .233 average.

2026 ROLE: Catching alternative behind Rutschman with 2026 .233 average.

FREE-ACCESS STORIES: [Postseason FAQ: Red Sox gear up for latest chapter of The Rivalry](#) | [Red Sox finalize 2026 Opening Day roster](#)

11. Isiah Kiner-Falefa | No. 2 | Age 31 | INF | B/T R/R | Pron: KYE-ner fah-LEH-fah

Height: 5' 10" | Weight: 195 lb | Born: 1995-03-23 | Hometown: Honolulu, HI, USA | MLB debut: 2018-04-10

2026: 66 G .242/.322/.311 OPS .633 HR 2 RBI 16 SB 8

2025: 138 G .262/.297/.334 OPS .631 HR 2 RBI 40 SB 15

Career: 986 G .261/.311/.347 OPS .658 HR 38 RBI 302 SB 108

BIO / ENTRY: Veteran utility defender with prior Yankees and 2025 Toronto experience.

SCOUT SCOOPS: Boston infield defensive option and late-game runner.

2026 ROLE: Boston infield defensive option and late-game runner.

FREE-ACCESS STORIES: [Postseason FAQ: Red Sox gear up for latest chapter of The Rivalry](#) | [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)

ADDITIONAL POSITION-PLAYER POOL / AVAILABILITY WATCH

12. Jahmai Jones | No. 37 | Age 29 | DH/OF | B/T R/R | Pron: juh-MYE

Height: 5' 10" | **Weight:** 210 lb | **Born:** 1997-08-04 | **Hometown:** Roswell, GA, USA | **MLB debut:** 2020-08-31

2026: 94 G .206/.298/.369 OPS .667 HR 6 RBI 16 SB 3

2025: 72 G .287/.387/.550 OPS .937 HR 7 RBI 23 SB 2

Career: 235 G .229/.315/.398 OPS .713 HR 14 RBI 50 SB 8

BIO / ENTRY: Acquired from Detroit during the 2026 season.

SCOUT SCOOPS: The 37-game Boston stint produced a .308/.408/.585 line.

2026 ROLE: The 37-game Boston stint produced a .308/.408/.585 line.

FREE-ACCESS STORIES: [Red Sox-Yankees AL Wild Card Series Game 1 FAQ](#) | [Again With These Guys: Yankees vs. Red Sox AL Wild Card Series Preview](#)

SECTION 03

GAME 1 STARTING PITCHERS

Payton Tolle and Cam Schlittler

Payton Tolle • Boston LHP

Cam Schlittler • New York RHP

2026 AL WILD CARD • BOSTON RED SOX / NEW YORK YANKEES

Payton Tolle | starting pitcher advance

BOSTON • LHP • GAME 1 • 2026 AL Wild Card Series

Stillwater, Oklahoma native; 6-foot-6, 250 pounds; bats/throws left. TCU; Boston selected him in round 2, No. 50 overall, in 2024. MLB debut August 29, 2025.

Season record and roster identity

2026	2025	MLB career
9–6 · 3.03 ERA · 148.2 IP · 171 K · 40 BB · 1.10 WHIP · 0.91 HR/9	0–1 · 6.06 ERA · 16.1 IP · 19 K · 8 BB · 1.59 WHIP · 2.76 HR/9	9–7 · 3.33 ERA · 165.0 IP · 190 K · 48 BB · 1.15 WHIP · 1.09 HR/9

Age 23 as of cutoff; jersey #70. Official MLB player record: [MLB Stats API](#). Draft and school: supplied Baseball Savant profile. The 2025 sample is short; do not compare raw ERA without workload.

Head-to-head with the opponent

2026: 2 starts, 13.0 IP, 4 H, 1 ER, 18 K; 0.69 ERA. The rows show each outing and its pitch count. Small matchup samples describe what happened, not an expectation.

Date / site	IP	H	R/ER	BB	K	Pitches
2026-04-23	6.0	3	1/1	1	11	93
2026-06-26	7.0	1	0/0	2	7	88

Last five actual starts

Date / opponent	IP	H	R/ER	BB	K	HR	P
08-25 @ Miami Marlins	5.1	4	2/2	2	7	1	97
08-31 vs Seattle Mariners	5.2	6	4/4	2	6	1	96
09-06 @ Baltimore Orioles	6.0	4	1/1	0	12	0	91
09-13 vs Kansas City Royals	6.0	4	0/0	1	7	0	96
09-22 vs Cleveland Guardians	5.2	8	2/2	2	5	0	91

Five-start aggregate: 28.2 IP, 9 ER (2.83 ERA), 37 K, 7 BB and 471 total pitches. The workload range was 91–97 pitches; read the most recent turn in that sequence rather than assuming identical Game 1 length.

Most recent actual starts, not scheduled turns. R/ER is runs / earned runs; P is total pitches. Opponent and pitch counts: [official 2026 game log](#).

Pitch design and contact

Pitch	Use	Avg mph	BA allowed	Whiff / swing	Run value
Four-seam	44.6%	96.1	.188	30.5%	+8
Sinker	24.1%	94.8	.314	17.1%	–1
Cutter	19.2%	88.6	.229	28.3%	+7
Curve	9.3%	82.9	.157	43.4%	+3
Change	2.8%	—	—	—	—

The four-seamer and cutter drive positive pitch run value. His curve is a chase and finish weapon in modest volume; the sinker is the clearest contact vulnerability in this mix. The 28-degree arm angle in 2026 was about five degrees lower than 2025. His extension ranks at the 9th percentile despite his size, so do not equate height with perceived velocity. Attack plan: recognize the sinker/cutter split early; avoid chasing the high fastball and curve below the zone. Those are scouting inferences from season pitch outcomes.

Statcast percentile map

Pitching run value 87th; fastball run value 91st; xERA 95th; xBA 90th; chase 96th; whiff 70th; strikeout 86th; walk 81st; barrel avoidance 77th; hard-hit avoidance 79th; ground-ball 26th; extension 9th.

Percentile ranks compare MLB pitchers in the supplied 2026 Baseball Savant player PDF. Pitch run value is descriptive; pitch-type results can be sensitive to sequence and location. Arm angle is degrees in the source graphic; extension is given here as a percentile, not a measured feet value.

Running game and operational notes

Opponents stole three bases and were caught twice; no recorded pickoffs in the supplied Savant table. Monitor lead length and slide step, especially with Yankee speed.

Rest and role: both clubs announced this Game 1 assignment. Verify any day-of roster and health change. The last-start pitch count above is the direct workload reference. [MLB Game 1 starter announcement](#).

Opponent plan and leverage points

New York has already seen him twice, but managed one earned run in 13 innings with 18 strikeouts. The hitter adjustment is to identify the sinker entering the zone, since its .314 opponent average was markedly higher than the four-seamer's .188; laying off the curve below the zone can force more fastballs. Tolle's 26th-percentile ground-ball rate makes fly-ball damage a watch item in this park. These are season-level indicators, not a claim that Yankee hitters will repeat a prior result.

Stories and people

[The words on his glove](#)

MLB.com's feature describes the words from his mother that Tolle keeps on his glove, a personal anchor that offers a concise family story.

[An unlikely hug at first](#)

MLB.com covered Tolle hugging Dominic Canzone during a play at first; the episode illustrates his approachable personality amid the intensity of a pennant race.

[How the delivery creates uncomfortable swings](#)

MLB.com analyzed how his delivery changes the hitter's look at the baseball. Pair this feature with the 2026 arm-angle change; a direct causal link between the two is not established by the season table.

Source desk

Official MLB Stats API player profile, 2026/2025/career pitching lines and 2026 game log; uploaded 2026 Baseball Savant player PDF; linked MLB.com stories above. Pitch usage and percentiles are from the uploaded Savant snapshot. Research cutoff: September 29 before postseason rosters are final.

Cam Schlittler | starting pitcher advance

NEW YORK • RHP • GAME 1 • 2026 AL Wild Card Series

Born in Weymouth, Massachusetts; raised in Walpole, Massachusetts; 6-foot-6, 215 pounds; bats/throws right. Northeastern; New York selected him in round 7, No. 220 overall, in 2022. MLB debut July 9, 2025.

Season record and roster identity

2026	2025	MLB career
14–6 · 1.95 ERA · 193.2 IP · 239 K · 49 BB · 0.92 WHIP · 0.74 HR/9	4–3 · 2.96 ERA · 73.0 IP · 84 K · 31 BB · 1.22 WHIP · 0.99 HR/9	18–9 · 2.23 ERA · 266.2 IP · 323 K · 80 BB · 1.00 WHIP · 0.81 HR/9

Age 25 as of cutoff; jersey #31. Official MLB player record: [MLB Stats API](#). Draft and school: supplied Baseball Savant profile. The 2025 sample is short; do not compare raw ERA without workload.

Head-to-head with the opponent

2026: 4 starts, 24.1 IP, 15 H, 2 ER, 27 K; 0.74 ERA. The rows show each outing and its pitch count. Small matchup samples describe what happened, not an expectation.

Date / site	IP	H	R/ER	BB	K	Pitches
2026-04-23	8.0	4	2/1	1	5	96
2026-06-07	5.2	4	1/1	1	5	92
2026-06-25	5.0	5	4/0	2	9	92
2026-08-28	5.2	2	0/0	5	8	102

Last five actual starts

Date / opponent	IP	H	R/ER	BB	K	HR	P
09-02 @ Los Angeles Angels	8.0	2	1/1	0	9	1	99
09-08 vs Colorado Rockies	7.0	3	1/1	0	10	1	96
09-13 vs New York Mets	6.0	1	0/0	2	8	0	94
09-19 @ Arizona Diamondbacks	6.0	3	3/1	3	6	0	98
09-24 vs Tampa Bay Rays	3.0	3	2/1	2	5	0	70

Five-start aggregate: 30.0 IP, 4 ER (1.20 ERA), 38 K, 7 BB and 457 total pitches. The workload range was 70–99 pitches; read the most recent turn in that sequence rather than assuming identical Game 1 length.

Most recent actual starts, not scheduled turns. R/ER is runs / earned runs; P is total pitches. Opponent and pitch counts: [official 2026 game log](#).

Pitch design and contact

Pitch	Use	Avg mph	BA allowed	Whiff / swing	Run value
Four-seam	44.5%	98.0	.163	34.8%	+28
Cutter	25.6%	94.6	.213	23.9%	+4
Sinker	19.3%	97.8	.179	16.8%	+10
Curve	9.8%	86.3	.250	44.2%	–1
Slider	0.9%	89.6	—	—	+1

Three hard fastball shapes comprise almost 90% of his pitches. The four-seam and sinker carried +28 and +10 run value; the curve missed bats at a 44.2% rate on swings but had negative overall run value. The 42-degree arm angle matches 2025; 81st-percentile extension adds perceived life. Boston’s practical task is to decide which fastball is entering the hitting zone and protect against the high four-seamer. This is an inference from usage and outcomes, not a pitch-call forecast.

Statcast percentile map

xERA 93rd; xBA 86th; fastball velocity 94th; chase 86th; whiff 79th; strikeout 95th; walk 85th; barrel avoidance 52nd; hard-hit avoidance 49th; ground-ball 62nd; extension 81st. The uploaded Savant PDF clips the leading digit of the pitching/fastball run-value percentile, so those two percentiles are omitted.

Percentile ranks compare MLB pitchers in the supplied 2026 Baseball Savant player PDF. Pitch run value is descriptive; pitch-type results can be sensitive to sequence and location. Arm angle is degrees in the source graphic; extension is given here as a percentile, not a measured feet value.

Running game and operational notes

Opponents stole four bases and were caught twice; no 2026 pickoff in the supplied Savant table. He recorded one pickoff in 2025.

Rest and role: both clubs announced this Game 1 assignment. Verify any day-of roster and health change. The last-start pitch count above is the direct workload reference. [MLB Game 1 starter announcement](#).

Opponent plan and leverage points

Boston saw him four times in 2026, scoring two earned runs across 24■ innings. His four-seam (.163 BA against) and sinker (.179) both prevented hits, although the sinker missed fewer bats on swings. The tactical question is whether Boston can put early hard contact in play before he gets to the chase curve. His 2025 October outing is a useful history note, not part of the 2026 matchup line.

Stories and people

[The local kid draws Boston again](#)

A Walpole native and childhood Red Sox fan, Schlittler told MLB.com about facing his hometown club and a conversation with Andy Pettitte. This is the personal connection at the center of Game 1.

[His first October statement](#)

In the 2025 Wild Card clincher against Boston, he threw eight scoreless innings with 12 strikeouts and no walks. MLB.com's breakdown traces how he controlled that stage.

[A three-fastball blueprint](#)

MLB.com examined how the four-seamer, cutter and sinker give hitters multiple hard shapes to solve. His 2026 pitch table shows that structure persists.

Source desk

Official MLB Stats API player profile, 2026/2025/career pitching lines and 2026 game log; uploaded 2026 Baseball Savant player PDF; linked MLB.com stories above. Pitch usage and percentiles are from the uploaded Savant snapshot. Research cutoff: September 29 before postseason rosters are final.

SECTION 04

BULLPENS

Relief-only team snapshots, recent workloads and Scout Scoops

Boston Red Sox bullpen • updated Remarkable scoops

New York Yankees bullpen • updated Remarkable scoops

Boston Red Sox | bullpen advance

2026 AL WILD CARD • ACTIVE REGULAR-SEASON ROSTER GATE

Roster check: official MLB active roster endpoint at research cutoff, September 29, 2026. Postseason eligibility and the final Wild Card roster are separate decisions. The candidate labels below describe possible usage, not a roster announcement.

Relief-only team snapshot

ERA	IP	W–L	SV / BS	HR/9	BB%	K%
3.00 (MLB #1)	602.1 (#17)	30–25 (wins #25)	46 / 14 (#7 / BS #1)	0.82 (#1)	8.3% (#2)	23.5% (#12)

All 30 clubs ranked from official MLB relief-split totals; ties share rank. Lower is better for ERA, blown saves, HR/9 and BB%; higher is better for saves, innings, wins and K%. Relief W–L is pitcher decision total, not team record. Rates computed from relief-only batters faced and baseball innings. [official team relief split](#).

Bridge and leverage map

Chapman remains the ninth-inning anchor if his lat permits; Whitlock is the chief bridge, with Miller and Morán left-handed options and Weissert from the right. Gamboa gives length. Bello and Bennett have substantial starting workloads and should be described as potential length, not established 2026 full-time relievers. Patrick Sandoval and Tanner Houck are also active pitchers but logged primarily starts or a single rehabilitation start; neither has a verified current bullpen assignment. The public postseason FAQ's projection preceded some late injury changes; the active roster check controls this report.

Injury/availability: Chapman was described as day-to-day with lat tightness. Whitlock returned from the IL August 29. Tyron Guerrero went on the IL late and is absent from the active list. Garrett Crochet is also absent from this active roster snapshot; any postseason activation would change the hierarchy. [Chapman update](#) · [Whitlock activation](#).

SCOUT SCOOPS: The supplied MLB Remarkable bullpen packet (updated September 29 at 6:23 a.m. Eastern) puts Chapman first among qualified AL relievers for strike rate with two strikes (72%) and with runners in scoring position (71%). Whitlock ranks second among qualified MLB relievers in overall strike rate (71%). Miller's slider supplies the misses, while his 21% walk rate against right-handed batters is a real matchup caution. These are distinct qualified populations and situations, not a direct head-to-head comparison.

Five-day workload grid | September 24–28

Pitcher / likely function	Verified MLB appearances and pitches
Aroldis Chapman — Closer; active, monitor lat tightness	No MLB appearance Sept. 24–28
Garrett Whitlock — High-leverage bridge; returned from IL Aug. 29	No MLB appearance Sept. 24–28
Erik Miller — Left-handed strikeout option	Thu 09/24: 8 P
Greg Weissert — Right-handed middle/high leverage	Fri 09/25: 22 P
Jovani Morán — Left-handed multi-inning option	Sun 09/27: 17 P
Alec Gamboa — Long relief/swingman	Fri 09/25: 40 P
Wyatt Olds — Late-season right-handed depth	Sun 09/27: 22 P
Brayan Bello — Rotation-to-relief candidate	Fri 09/25: 58 P
Jake Bennett — Starter/long relief candidate	Fri 09/25: 65 P

Day/date and total pitches come from the official 2026 MLB game log; a blank interval means no MLB appearance within these five calendar dates, not proof of full health or availability. Starts are included only for starter/length candidates and labeled in the individual profiles.

Individual bullpen cards

Aroldis Chapman #44 | LHP | Closer; active, monitor lat tightness

2026: 3–4 · 1.92 ERA · 51.2 IP · 71 K · 23 BB · 1.12 WHIP · 0.52 HR/9

2025: 5–3 · 1.17 ERA · 61.1 IP · 85 K · 15 BB · 0.70 WHIP · 0.44 HR/9 | Career: 63–52 · 2.48 ERA · 873.0 IP · 1402 K · 431 BB · 1.08 WHIP · 0.59 HR/9

2026 usage: 53 G / 0 GS; 35 SV / 2 BS; 33.3% K / 10.8% BB. **Scouting asset:** Power left-handed closer; 35 saves and 1.92 ERA. Verify lat status before first pitch.

SCOUT SCOOPS • 72% strike rate in two-strike counts, highest among qualified AL relievers; 71% strike rate with runners in scoring position, also highest. • 33% strikeout rate, eighth among qualified MLB relievers; 70% fastballs overall and 73% against right-handed hitters. • Since 2025: 1.51 ERA, best among qualified MLB relievers; opponents hit .093 with two strikes.

Last five calendar days: No MLB appearance Sept. 24–28.

[Official player game log](#) · [Baseball Savant profile](#)

Garrett Whitlock #22 | RHP | High-leverage bridge; returned from IL Aug. 29

2026: 7–2 · 1.72 ERA · 52.1 IP · 59 K · 9 BB · 0.90 WHIP · 0.52 HR/9

2025: 7–3 · 2.25 ERA · 72.0 IP · 91 K · 24 BB · 1.08 WHIP · 0.25 HR/9 | Career: 32–16 · 2.93 ERA · 366.0 IP · 402 K · 85 BB · 1.10 WHIP · 0.86 HR/9

2026 usage: 54 G / 0 GS; 4 SV / 4 BS; 29.8% K / 4.5% BB. **Scouting asset:** Strike throwing and run prevention; 1.72 ERA over 52¹/₃ innings.

SCOUT SCOOPS • 71% overall strike rate, second among qualified MLB relievers; 6.6 K:BB ratio, third. • Opponents reached base at a .239 clip, second best among qualified AL relievers; hitters swung at 57% of his pitches, highest in the AL group. • In eight September games, opponents chased 47% of his pitches and missed 40%; both ranked near the top of their stated qualified groups.

Last five calendar days: No MLB appearance Sept. 24–28.

[Official player game log](#) · [Baseball Savant profile](#)

Erik Miller #67 | LHP | Left-handed strikeout option

2026: 4–2 · 2.98 ERA · 51.1 IP · 74 K · 34 BB · 1.38 WHIP · 0.53 HR/9

2025: 4–1 · 1.50 ERA · 30.0 IP · 22 K · 20 BB · 1.47 WHIP · 0.00 HR/9 | Career: 12–8 · 3.09 ERA · 148.2 IP · 183 K · 92 BB · 1.37 WHIP · 0.61 HR/9

2026 usage: 57 G / 1 GS; 5 SV / 1 BS; 32.6% K / 15.0% BB. **Scouting asset:** Left-handed swing and miss; season strikeouts and walks below clarify the tradeoff.

SCOUT SCOOPS • Non-fastballs generated a 52% miss rate, fifth among qualified MLB relievers; 47 of 74 strikeouts (64%) came on sliders. • Right-handed batters walked 21% of the time, highest in the qualified MLB reliever group; his two-strike strike rate was 57%, third lowest. • Opponents swung at only 37% of his fastballs, lowest in the qualified MLB reliever group.

Last five calendar days: Thu 09/24: 8 P.

[Official player game log](#) · [Baseball Savant profile](#)

Greg Weissert #57 | RHP | Right-handed middle/high leverage

2026: 4–2 · 3.26 ERA · 60.2 IP · 60 K · 20 BB · 1.24 WHIP · 1.19 HR/9

2025: 6–6 · 2.82 ERA · 67.0 IP · 57 K · 21 BB · 1.16 WHIP · 0.81 HR/9 | Career: 17–10 · 3.28 ERA · 222.1 IP · 208 K · 74 BB · 1.25 WHIP · 1.01 HR/9

2026 usage: 63 G / 0 GS; 1 SV / 2 BS; 23.5% K / 7.8% BB. **Scouting asset:** 63 games of regular bridge volume.

SCOUT SCOOPS • 68% first-pitch strike rate, tied for third among qualified MLB relievers. • Against right-handed batters: 5% walk rate, 5.4 K:BB ratio and 40% of strikeouts looking; the first two were among the better qualified AL/MLB marks. • Left-handed batters hit .300, sixth highest among qualified AL relievers; inning leadoff hitters reached at a .404 OBP.

Last five calendar days: Fri 09/25: 22 P.

[Official player game log](#) · [Baseball Savant profile](#)

Jovani Morán #47 | LHP | Left-handed multi-inning option

2026: 2–3 · 3.15 ERA · 65.2 IP · 73 K · 33 BB · 1.14 WHIP · 1.23 HR/9

2025: 0–0 · 6.75 ERA · 4.0 IP · 5 K · 3 BB · 2.00 WHIP · 0.00 HR/9 | Career: 4–6 · 3.81 ERA · 160.2 IP · 190 K · 88 BB · 1.27 WHIP · 0.67 HR/9

2026 usage: 50 G / 3 GS; 0 SV / 1 BS; 26.8% K / 12.1% BB. **Scouting asset:** 65¹/₃ innings and multi-inning flexibility.

SCOUT SCOOPS • Changeup usage against right-handed batters was 45%, second highest among qualified MLB relievers. • Non-fastballs generated a 45% miss rate, ninth among qualified MLB relievers; opponents hit .174 against his fastball. • His K:BB ratio against right-handed hitters was 1.8, tied for 10th lowest in the qualified AL group.

Last five calendar days: Sun 09/27: 17 P.

[Official player game log](#) · [Baseball Savant profile](#)

Alec Gamboa #68 | LHP | Long relief/swingman

2026: 1–0 · 1.91 ERA · 33.0 IP · 23 K · 11 BB · 1.15 WHIP · 0.27 HR/9

2025: No MLB innings | Career: 1–0 · 1.91 ERA · 33.0 IP · 23 K · 11 BB · 1.15 WHIP · 0.27 HR/9

2026 usage: 21 G / 3 GS; 1 SV / 0 BS; 17.4% K / 8.3% BB. **Scouting asset:** 33 innings across 21 appearances, including three starts.

SCOUT SCOOPS • In seven September games, opponents hit ground balls at a 57% rate. • Over the latest 14-day window in the packet, opponents hit .350 with a .435 OBP and missed on only 10% of swings; those small-window markers temper his full-season ERA.

Last five calendar days: Fri 09/25: 40 P.

[Official player game log](#) · [Baseball Savant profile](#)

Wyatt Olds #75 | RHP | Late-season right-handed depth

2026: 2–0 · 1.15 ERA · 15.2 IP · 20 K · 8 BB · 1.21 WHIP · 1.15 HR/9

2025: No MLB innings | Career: 2–0 · 1.15 ERA · 15.2 IP · 20 K · 8 BB · 1.21 WHIP · 1.15 HR/9

2026 usage: 14 G / 0 GS; 0 SV / 1 BS; 29.4% K / 11.8% BB. **Scouting asset:** 1.15 ERA in 15■ innings; small MLB sample.

SCOUT SCOOPS • In September, he reached two strikes within his first three pitches to 54% of batters, 12th lowest among the qualified AL reliever group. The 15■-inning MLB season sample calls for caution.

Last five calendar days: Sun 09/27: 22 P.

[Official player game log](#) · [Baseball Savant profile](#)

Brayan Bello #66 | RHP | Rotation-to-relief candidate

2026: 6–7 · 4.33 ERA · 116.1 IP · 92 K · 36 BB · 1.37 WHIP · 0.93 HR/9

2025: 11–9 · 3.35 ERA · 166.2 IP · 124 K · 59 BB · 1.24 WHIP · 0.86 HR/9 | Career: 45–43 · 4.13 ERA · 659.2 IP · 556 K · 231 BB · 1.36 WHIP · 0.98 HR/9

2026 usage: 26 G / 11 GS; 1 SV / 0 BS; 18.3% K / 7.2% BB. **Scouting asset:** Rotation experience; season line blends 11 starts and 15 relief appearances.

Last five calendar days: Fri 09/25: 58 P.

[Official player game log](#) · [Baseball Savant profile](#)

Jake Bennett #64 | LHP | Starter/long relief candidate

2026: 9–7 · 3.65 ERA · 113.1 IP · 91 K · 21 BB · 1.10 WHIP · 0.95 HR/9

2025: No MLB innings | Career: 9–7 · 3.65 ERA · 113.1 IP · 91 K · 21 BB · 1.10 WHIP · 0.95 HR/9

2026 usage: 20 G / 19 GS; 0 SV / 0 BS; 20.0% K / 4.6% BB. **Scouting asset:** 19 starts of 20 outings; season line is chiefly rotation work.

Last five calendar days: Fri 09/25: 65 P.

[Official player game log](#) · [Baseball Savant profile](#)

Two story leads for the bullpen desk

[Chapman's lat status](#) — Health and relief hierarchy affect the late-inning plan; check the day-of roster before treating the projected order as final.

[Whitlock returns](#) — Health and relief hierarchy affect the late-inning plan; check the day-of roster before treating the projected order as final.

Methods and source desk

2026, 2025 and career: MLB Stats API player pitching season/career records; active roster: [official roster](#). Five-day appearances: official game logs. Team relief metrics: MLB situational relief split for 2026, ranked against all 30 teams. Individual season ERA/HR9 includes starts where noted. "Scouting asset" is a season performance or role marker; Savant links enable pitch-specific verification rather than asserting an unverified percentile. SCOUT SCOOPS are drawn from the user-supplied RED SOX BULLPEN REMARKABLE.pdf, updated September 29, 2026 at 6:23 a.m. Eastern. Its ranked populations vary by note; the season, since-2025, September and 14-day windows are preserved. Final postseason roster and current injury reports supersede this pregame gate.

New York Yankees | bullpen advance

2026 AL WILD CARD • ACTIVE REGULAR-SEASON ROSTER GATE

Roster check: official MLB active roster endpoint at research cutoff, September 29, 2026. Postseason eligibility and the final Wild Card roster are separate decisions. The candidate labels below describe possible usage, not a roster announcement.

Relief-only team snapshot

ERA	IP	W–L	SV / BS	HR/9	BB%	K%
3.15 (MLB #2)	574.1 (#25)	41–24 (wins #7)	45 / 28 (#12 / BS #22)	0.99 (#12)	9.0% (#11)	22.5% (#15)

All 30 clubs ranked from official MLB relief-split totals; ties share rank. Lower is better for ERA, blown saves, HR/9 and BB%; higher is better for saves, innings, wins and K%. Relief W–L is pitcher decision total, not team record. Rates computed from relief-only batters faced and baseball innings. [official team relief split](#).

Bridge and leverage map

Bednar takes the ninth. Blackburn and Headrick offer the strongest season run prevention in the bridge; Hill provides a distinct ground-ball look, while Fulmer and Schreiber arrived late. Yarbrough supplies length if selected. Warren and Rodón are starters who could be used tactically; their full-season lines cannot be read as relief-only performance.

Availability/selection: Fernando Cruz was moved to the 60-day IL and is absent from the active list. Warren and Rodón logged primarily or exclusively starts; Cornielle is active with only one 2026 MLB inning. These three remain roster watch items, not confirmed bullpen members. Riley Cornelio in the uploaded packet is a National and is excluded. Confirm the final postseason roster before scripting inning assignments. [Yankees roster moves](#).

SCOUT SCOOPS: The supplied September 29 MLB Remarkable bullpen packet identifies Bednar’s 34% chase rate before two strikes as the highest among qualified AL relievers. Hill sits at both extremes: a 69% ground-ball rate and 10% strikeout rate, each an MLB qualified-reliever extreme. Headrick’s low breaking ball missed bats on 58% of swings. These are different pitch/count populations, not direct matchup probabilities.

Five-day workload grid | September 24–28

Pitcher / likely function	Verified MLB appearances and pitches
David Bednar — Closer	Fri 09/25: 28 P
Paul Blackburn — Multi-inning bridge	Fri 09/25: 20 P
Brent Headrick — Left-handed bridge	Fri 09/25: 26 P
Tim Hill — Ground-ball left-hander	Thu 09/24: 12 P
Michael Fulmer — Late addition/right-handed depth	Thu 09/24: 28 P
John Schreiber — Late addition/right-handed setup depth	Fri 09/25: 10 P
Ryan Yarbrough — Length option; postseason selection uncertain	Fri 09/25: 49 P
Yerry De los Santos — Right-handed depth; postseason selection uncertain	Fri 09/25: 43 P

Day/date and total pitches come from the official 2026 MLB game log; a blank interval means no MLB appearance within these five calendar dates, not proof of full health or availability. Starts are included only for starter/length candidates and labeled in the individual profiles.

Individual bullpen cards

David Bednar #53 | Age 31 | RHP | Closer

2026: 7–3 · 2.47 ERA · 69.1 IP · 76 K · 20 BB · 1.04 WHIP · 0.52 HR/9

2025: 6–5 · 2.30 ERA · 62.2 IP · 86 K · 19 BB · 1.04 WHIP · 0.57 HR/9 | Career: 25–26 · 3.03 ERA · 386.2 IP · 465 K · 130 BB · 1.13 WHIP · 0.77 HR/9

2026 usage: 64 G / 0 GS; 35 SV / 4 BS; 27.1% K / 7.1% BB. **Scouting asset:** 35 saves, 2.47 ERA; established ninth-inning option.

SCOUT SCOOPS • 34% chase rate in non-two-strike counts, highest among qualified AL relievers; right-handed hitters swung at 56% of his pitches, highest in the qualified MLB group. • Against righties, 68% strike rate and 38% chase rate. He elevated 65% of his fastballs overall. • In nine September games, 80% off-speed pitches with two strikes; the month window is distinct from season usage.

Last five calendar days: Fri 09/25: 28 P.

[Official player game log](#) · [Baseball Savant profile](#)

Paul Blackburn #58 | Age 32 | RHP | Multi-inning bridge

2026: 7–3 · 1.69 ERA · 85.0 IP · 69 K · 33 BB · 1.09 WHIP · 0.74 HR/9

2025: 0–3 · 6.23 ERA · 39.0 IP · 34 K · 12 BB · 1.51 WHIP · 1.38 HR/9 | Career: 29–34 · 4.46 ERA · 552.1 IP · 432 K · 177 BB · 1.37 WHIP · 1.12 HR/9

2026 usage: 62 G / 2 GS; 1 SV / 4 BS; 20.5% K / 9.8% BB. **Scouting asset:** 1.69 ERA in 85 innings, mostly relief; length with run prevention.

SCOUT SCOOPS • 58% pitches away, third highest among qualified MLB relievers; 59% away against lefties. • Opponents hit .130 when he was ahead; his fastball generated only an 11% miss rate, third lowest in the qualified AL group. • In the latest 14 days, 53% changeups against lefties, highest in the packet's AL window.

Last five calendar days: Fri 09/25: 20 P.

[Official player game log](#) · [Baseball Savant profile](#)

Brent Headrick #47 | Age 28 | LHP | Left-handed bridge

2026: 7–4 · 2.18 ERA · 78.1 IP · 98 K · 27 BB · 1.21 WHIP · 0.57 HR/9

2025: 0–0 · 3.13 ERA · 23.0 IP · 30 K · 7 BB · 1.04 WHIP · 1.57 HR/9 | Career: 10–4 · 3.18 ERA · 130.0 IP · 163 K · 46 BB · 1.23 WHIP · 1.18 HR/9

2026 usage: 81 G / 0 GS; 0 SV / 2 BS; 30.1% K / 8.3% BB. **Scouting asset:** 81 appearances and 2.18 ERA; busiest left-handed option.

SCOUT SCOOPS • 75% of sliders located down, highest among qualified AL relievers; breaking pitches induced a 48% miss rate. • Low breaking pitches missed bats on 58% of swings, tied for eighth among qualified MLB relievers. • September first-pitch strike rate was 73% in the packet's month window.

Last five calendar days: Fri 09/25: 26 P.

[Official player game log](#) · [Baseball Savant profile](#)

Tim Hill #41 | Age 36 | LHP | Ground-ball left-hander

2026: 5–2 · 4.60 ERA · 58.2 IP · 25 K · 13 BB · 1.14 WHIP · 1.84 HR/9

2025: 4–4 · 3.09 ERA · 67.0 IP · 37 K · 16 BB · 1.10 WHIP · 1.07 HR/9 | Career: 29–20 · 3.94 ERA · 448.0 IP · 301 K · 132 BB · 1.27 WHIP · 1.00 HR/9

2026 usage: 67 G / 0 GS; 2 SV / 4 BS; 10.4% K / 5.4% BB. **Scouting asset:** Ground-ball specialist, but 4.60 ERA and HR risk.

SCOUT SCOOPS • 69% opponent ground-ball rate, highest among qualified MLB relievers, alongside a 10% strikeout rate, lowest in that group. • Right-handed opponents had a .909 OPS; just 9% struck out, lowest among qualified AL relievers. Lefties walked 4% of the time. • Since 2025, 93% fastballs, highest in the qualified AL group; he creates grounders with unusual frequency without many misses.

Last five calendar days: Thu 09/24: 12 P.

[Official player game log](#) · [Baseball Savant profile](#)

Michael Fulmer #43 | Age 33 | RHP | Late addition/right-handed depth

2026: 0–1 · 3.29 ERA · 13.2 IP · 18 K · 8 BB · 1.39 WHIP · 1.32 HR/9

2025: 0–0 · 4.76 ERA · 5.2 IP · 3 K · 2 BB · 1.41 WHIP · 1.59 HR/9 | Career: 37–51 · 3.93 ERA · 693.1 IP · 596 K · 226 BB · 1.27 WHIP · 1.00 HR/9

2026 usage: 15 G / 0 GS; 0 SV / 0 BS; 29.5% K / 13.1% BB. **Scouting asset:** 15-game late-season sample after joining New York.

SCOUT SCOOPS • In nine September games, opponents had a .208 OPS with two strikes, seventh best among qualified MLB relievers. • The packet credits a 40% miss rate in those nine September games, tied for seventh in its qualified group. • Across his last five appearances, opponents had an 11% ground-ball rate; avoid reading the full-season ERA as a current batted-ball trend.

Last five calendar days: Thu 09/24: 28 P.

[Official player game log](#) · [Baseball Savant profile](#)

John Schreiber #56 | Age 32 | RHP | Late addition/right-handed setup depth

2026: 2–4 · 3.28 ERA · 60.1 IP · 40 K · 26 BB · 1.24 WHIP · 1.04 HR/9

2025: 3–3 · 3.80 ERA · 64.0 IP · 62 K · 19 BB · 1.19 WHIP · 1.41 HR/9 | Career: 17–16 · 3.58 ERA · 319.1 IP · 313 K · 118 BB · 1.24 WHIP · 0.90 HR/9

2026 usage: 66 G / 0 GS; 2 SV / 3 BS; 16.3% K / 10.6% BB. **Scouting asset:** 66 games and 60■ innings; added late.

SCOUT SCOOPS • Right-handed opponents had a .439 OPS and .206 OBP, both third best among qualified AL relievers. • Overall K:BB ratio was 1.5, tied for fifth lowest among qualified MLB relievers; two-strike miss rate was only 16%. • A 74% first-pitch strike rate over the last 14 days ranked ninth in the packet's AL window.

Last five calendar days: Fri 09/25: 10 P.

[Official player game log](#) · [Baseball Savant profile](#)

Ryan Yarbrough #33 | Age 34 | LHP | Length option; postseason selection uncertain

2026: 2–1 · 3.69 ERA · 63.1 IP · 49 K · 23 BB · 1.22 WHIP · 0.43 HR/9

2025: 3–1 · 4.36 ERA · 64.0 IP · 55 K · 19 BB · 1.20 WHIP · 1.83 HR/9 | Career: 58–42 · 4.18 ERA · 895.1 IP · 703 K · 219 BB · 1.19 WHIP · 1.16 HR/9

2026 usage: 38 G / 2 GS; 3 SV / 0 BS; 18.3% K / 8.6% BB. **Scouting asset:** 63■ innings of length in mixed roles.

SCOUT SCOOPS • Changeup usage against right-handed hitters was 36%, sixth highest among qualified MLB relievers; 81% of changeups were located low, third highest. • Opponent ground-ball rate was 35%, eighth lowest among qualified AL relievers. • His 87.3 mph average fastball since 2025 was second lowest among the qualified AL group.

Last five calendar days: Fri 09/25: 49 P.

[Official player game log](#) · [Baseball Savant profile](#)

Yerry De los Santos #73 | Age 28 | RHP | Right-handed depth; postseason selection uncertain

2026: 1–0 · 2.05 ERA · 22.0 IP · 17 K · 8 BB · 1.27 WHIP · 1.64 HR/9

2025: 0–1 · 3.28 ERA · 35.2 IP · 28 K · 17 BB · 1.51 WHIP · 0.25 HR/9 | Career: 2–5 · 3.43 ERA · 107.2 IP · 89 K · 49 BB · 1.35 WHIP · 0.75 HR/9

2026 usage: 16 G / 0 GS; 0 SV / 0 BS; 18.1% K / 8.5% BB. **Scouting asset:** 2.05 ERA over 22 innings; limited sample.

SCOUT SCOOPS • The supplied Remarkable page contains no pitcher-specific entry among its first 100 displayed notes; use the verified 2026 MLB line and five-day workload.

Last five calendar days: Fri 09/25: 43 P.

[Official player game log](#) · [Baseball Savant profile](#)

Two story leads for the bullpen desk

[Yankees postseason FAQ](#) — The late additions and roster choices frame Boone's late-inning options; check the final postseason roster before assigning roles.

[Wild Card matchup preview](#) — The late additions and roster choices frame Boone's late-inning options; check the final postseason roster before assigning roles.

Methods and source desk

2026, 2025 and career: MLB Stats API player pitching season/career records; active roster: [official roster](#). Five-day appearances: official game logs. Team relief metrics: MLB situational relief split for 2026, ranked against all 30 teams. Individual season ERA/HR9 includes starts where noted. "Scouting asset" is a season performance or role marker; Savant links enable pitch-specific verification rather than asserting an unverified percentile. SCOUT SCOOPS are drawn from the user-supplied YANKEES BULLPEN REMARKABLEMLB Remarkable.pdf, updated September 29, 2026 at 6:23 a.m. Eastern. Season, since-2025, September and short recent windows are kept distinct. Final postseason roster and current injury reports supersede this pregame gate.