

Rebels Cum

Unbiased Team Analysis

June 09, 2026

Overall Grade: **C+**

☐☐ UNBIASED ANALYSIS: Rebels Cum

The Mendoza Line League | 2026 Season Preview

Yes, we're really doing this. Yes, that's really the team name. Let's move on before HR gets involved.

1. Overall Team Summary (Brutal Honesty Edition)

Quick Verdict: Pretender With Upside — The "We'll Be Scary Next Year" Team That Says It Every Year

This is a roster built almost entirely on young, cheap bats with mid-tier ceilings and a pitching staff held together with duct tape, prayer, and a 35-year-old Nick Martinez. The total salary of \$231 across 15 keepers suggests the manager is either playing 4D chess with cap space or simply couldn't find anyone worth paying real money for. The batting lineup has a surprising amount of youth and sneaky upside, but the pitching staff looks like it was assembled during a bathroom break at the draft.

One-liner roast: This team's name has more climax potential than its roster.

One-liner compliment: Locking up Jacob Wilson and Tyler Soderstrom at \$7 each is the kind of value that makes other managers lose sleep — and that's not nothing.

2. Roster Construction & Strategy

What the manager prioritized: Youth, cheap contracts, and the belief that Oakland Athletics players are the future of fantasy baseball. Seriously — three A's/former-A's players? This manager watched *Moneyball* one too many times and decided Billy Beane was still running things.

What they ignored:

- **Starting pitching depth.** Two legitimate starters (Singer and Bieber, who's made 7 starts in two years), one swingman (Martinez), and a whole lot of hope. That's not a rotation — that's a cry for help.
- **Saves.** Jeff Hoffman is the only reliable closer on this roster, and even he saw his ERA balloon from 2.17 to 4.37 last year. Gaddis has 3 saves in his career. Dreyer has 4. This team is bringing a knife to a saves fight.
- **Stolen bases.** The entire roster combined for roughly 45 steals last year. In an era where speed matters more than ever, this team runs like it's wearing concrete shoes.
- **Positional depth.** One catcher, one shortstop, one first baseman. If anyone goes down, the manager is diving into the waiver wire dumpster.

Where the roster is fragile: Everywhere pitching is involved. Shane Bieber is "throwing from 120 feet" — which is code for "we have no idea when he'll actually pitch in a game." Troy Melton has an elbow strain. The entire pitching staff projected for ~2,568 fantasy points sounds okay until you realize Bieber's projection of 417.6 is based on the assumption he'll be healthy, which is roughly as reliable as a weather forecast in April.

3. Strengths

- **Young Bat Core at Bargain Prices:** Jacob Wilson (\$7, proj 520.4), Tyler Soderstrom (\$7, proj 489.8), Kyle Stowers (\$7, proj 536.6), and Colt Keith (\$6, proj 363.4) are all 28 or younger with upward trajectories. That's four potential 500+ FPTS players for a combined \$27. Disgusting value.
- **Soderstrom Is a Monster:** 25 HR, 93 RBI, .820 OPS in his age-23 season, projected for nearly 490 points, and he's mashing in spring training (1.300 OPS through 8 games). At \$7, this is the kind of keeper that wins leagues.
- **Ramon Laureano's Renaissance:** After two lost years, Laureano went .281/24/76/7 in 2025 and is projected for 480+ points. At \$5, this is highway robbery. The man is 31 and playing like he found the fountain of youth in San Diego's craft beer scene.
- **Jacob Wilson's Contact Skills Are Absurd:** A .311 average with a 27:39 BB:K ratio at age 22? This kid struck out only 39 times in 523 plate appearances. That's elite contact ability, and the power is developing. Projected for 520+ points at \$7. This is the steal of the draft.
- **Kyle Stowers' Breakout:** .288/25/73 with a .912 OPS after years of being a nobody. Projected for 536.6 points — the highest on the roster. At \$7, this is the kind of late bloomer that makes you look like a genius. The "running progression starting soon" headline is mildly concerning, but we'll get to that.

- **Hunter Gaddis as a Stealth RP Asset:** 73 K in 66.2 IP, 35 holds, 3.10 ERA, and he's only 12% owned? At \$5, this is a ratios stabilizer who could fall into saves if Cleveland's closer situation shifts. The forearm MRI came back negative, so exhale.
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4. Weaknesses / Red Flags

- **Shane Bieber at \$15 Is a Ticking Time Bomb:** The man has pitched 52.1 total innings over the last two seasons. He's "throwing from 120 feet" in spring training, which means he's approximately 120 feet away from being useful. You're paying \$15 for a pitcher who might not start until June — if he starts at all. That's 6.5% of your total salary on a prayer candle.
- **The Pitching Staff Is Terrifyingly Thin:** Strip away the projections and look at what actually happened in 2025: Singer (440 pts), Hoffman (373), Gaddis (377), Martinez (334), Dreyer (328), Bieber (128), Melton (159). That's two guys above 400 points. TWO. In a 15-player roster, you're dedicating 7 spots to pitching and getting mid-tier production from most of them.
- **Troy Melton's Elbow Strain:** An elbow strain for a 25-year-old reliever who threw 45.2 innings is the kind of headline that makes you go "uh oh." He's projected for only 167 points even when healthy. At \$2 the cost is fine, but the roster spot might be wasted.
- **Jeff Hoffman's Regression Is Real:** His ERA went from 2.17 (2024) to 4.37 (2025). His WHIP went from 0.96 to 1.19. His K/9 dropped from 12.1 to 11.1. He's 33 years old and the news says he's "planning to ease back on the fastball." When a closer starts experimenting with his pitch mix at 33, that's not evolution — that's desperation.
- **Andy Pages' Projection Drop:** Pages went from 489.5 FPTS in 2025 to a 2026 projection of 373.2. That's a 24% decline. The projection systems are essentially saying "that was fun, but don't count on it." At \$9, he's your most expensive hitter for what might be a .260/20 HR guy.
- **Nolan Schanuel Is Aggressively Boring:** 12 HR, .389 SLG, 383 fantasy points. He's "looking to add more bat speed," which is something you say when you know you hit like a pitcher's cousin. At 1B — the most loaded position in fantasy — a .742 OPS is replacement level. You're paying \$6 for a guy who walks a lot and does very little else.
- **Zero Stolen Base Threat:** Dingler: 0 SB. Keith: 1 SB. Soderstrom: 8 SB. Schanuel: 5 SB. This team's combined speed wouldn't beat my grandmother to first base. In a five-category league, you're punting an entire category.

- **Dillon Dingler's Ceiling Is a Basement:** A catcher projected for 276.8 points with 30% ownership. He hit .278 with 13 HR and zero stolen bases. That's fine for a catcher, but the "throwing to bases Tuesday" headline suggests there may be a physical issue that could limit him early. At \$3, the cost is right, but don't expect anything exciting.
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5. Player-by-Player Takes

BATTERS

Dillon Dingler (C) — DET | \$3

Role/Status: Starting catcher, Detroit. Appears to be dealing with some kind of arm issue ("throwing to bases Tuesday").

Value Assessment: Solid for the position. Catchers are a wasteland, and getting a guy who hit .278 with a .752 OPS for \$3 is perfectly acceptable.

Risk Factors: Zero speed, arm concerns, and a K rate that would make Adam Dunn wince (23.5% K rate). His 2024 cup of coffee was horrific (.167 AVG).

Punchline: *He's the catcher equivalent of plain oatmeal — you won't love it, but it won't kill you. Probably.*

Colt Keith (DH) — DET | \$6

Role/Status: Multi-position eligible (1B/2B/3B/DH), everyday player for Detroit. Only 24 years old.

Value Assessment: Solid upside play. The projection bump from 299.5 to 363.4 is encouraging, and the positional flexibility is valuable. But he's still a .256 hitter with 13 HR — that's not exactly setting the world on fire.

Risk Factors: The power hasn't fully materialized yet. His ISO was .157 in 2025, which is fine but not the 20+ HR breakout everyone's waiting for. He struck out 7 times in 15 spring PA, which is... not great.

Punchline: *Colt Keith is the fantasy equivalent of a savings bond your grandma gave you — might be worth something someday, but right now it's just sitting there.*

Andy Pages (CF) — LAD | \$9

Role/Status: Starting outfielder for the Dodgers. Had a legit breakout in 2025 with 27 HR and 14 SB.

Value Assessment: Streamer trending toward solid. The 2025 numbers were great, but the projection systems are screaming regression (373 projected vs 489

actual). Playing for the Dodgers helps, but a .312 OBP with 135 K's is a thin margin for error.

Risk Factors: He's your most expensive hitter, and the projections suggest you're overpaying by about 25%. The walk rate is atrocious (4.6%). If the power dips even slightly, he becomes a \$9 albatross.

Punchline: *Andy Pages had one great year in the Dodgers lineup and you're paying him like he's going to do it again. The projections disagree. Loudly.*

Ramon Laureano (LF) — SD | \$5

Role/Status: Everyday outfielder for San Diego. Legit comeback story in 2025.

Value Assessment: Steal. .281/24/76 with a .854 OPS for \$5? That's elite value. And the projection systems actually expect him to get BETTER (480.2 projected).

Risk Factors: He's 31, and the two years before 2025 were ugly (176 and 184 FPTS). This could be a one-year wonder resurgence. Also, 119 K's in 488 PA is a lot of whiffs for a guy who doesn't walk much.

Punchline: *Ramon Laureano rose from the dead like fantasy Lazarus. At \$5, even if he dies again, you won't lose sleep.*

Nolan Schanuel (1B) — LAA | \$6

Role/Status: Starting 1B for the Angels. "Looking to add more bat speed" is the headline, which is basically admitting the bat speed isn't there.

Value Assessment: Landmine at the position. First base is stacked with elite producers, and Schanuel's 12 HR with a .389 SLG is embarrassing for the position. His best skill is walking (59 BB), but in most fantasy formats, walks don't score you points directly.

Risk Factors: Plays for the Angels, who are allergic to winning. His projection is essentially flat (383 → 382), meaning even the algorithms think this is who he is. At 1B, that's a below-average asset.

Punchline: *Nolan Schanuel is the human embodiment of "well, at least he gets on base." Cool, bro. So does the guy who gets hit by pitches a lot.*

Jacob Wilson (SS) — ATH | \$7

Role/Status: Starting SS for Oakland. Only 23 years old. Hit .311 with a ridiculous 27:39 BB:K ratio.

Value Assessment: Elite value. Projected for 520.4 points at \$7 is the kind of surplus value that makes league-mates furious. The contact skills are generational — 39 strikeouts in 523 PA is absurd.

Risk Factors: Only 13 HR and 5 SB, so the counting stats need to improve. Plays for Oakland, which means fewer RBI opportunities. The 16 GIDP is ugly. But he's 23 — the power is coming.

Punchline: *Jacob Wilson makes contact like he owes the ball money. This kid is going to be a star, and you got him for the price of a large pizza. Well done, you degenerate.*

Kyle Stowers (LF) — MIA | \$7

Role/Status: Starting OF for Miami. Had a monster 2025 breakout (.288/25/73, .912 OPS). Currently in a "running progression," which suggests some kind of lower-body issue.

Value Assessment: Elite value if healthy. Projected for 536.6 points — the highest on your roster. The .256 ISO shows legit power, and the plate discipline improved dramatically.

Risk Factors: He plays for the Marlins, who might trade anyone with a pulse. The "running progression" news is vaguely ominous for the start of the season. And before 2025, he was a career .208 hitter in the majors. One-year wonder risk is real.

Punchline: *Kyle Stowers went from "who?" to "holy shit" in one season. The Marlins will probably trade him to the Yankees for a bag of baseballs and a gift card, which would actually help your fantasy team.*

Tyler Soderstrom (LF) — ATH | \$7

Role/Status: Everyday player for Oakland. Eligible at 1B and LF. Having a monster spring (1.300 OPS through 8 games).

Value Assessment: Elite. 25 HR, 93 RBI, .820 OPS at age 23, and the spring numbers suggest he's not slowing down. At \$7, this is robbery.

Risk Factors: The projection dips slightly from 515.7 to 489.8, which could reflect some regression expectation. 141 K's is a lot. Plays for Oakland. But the raw talent is undeniable.

Punchline: *Tyler Soderstrom is the best player on this roster and he costs less than Brady Singer's jockstrap. That's either brilliant roster management or a complete accident. Knowing this team name, I'm guessing the latter.*

PITCHERS

Brady Singer (SP) — CIN | \$24

Role/Status: Frontline starter, now with the Reds. Made his spring debut. 14 wins and 163 K in 2025.

Value Assessment: Solid SP2/SP3, but at \$24 he's your most expensive player by a mile. The 4.03 ERA and 1.24 WHIP are fine, not elite. He's the guy you pay for stability, not dominance.

Risk Factors: Moving to Cincinnati and Great American Ball Park — one of the most HR-friendly parks in baseball — after already allowing 19 HR in 2025. That's a recipe for a 4.50+ ERA. The 22.50 ERA in his spring start is obviously meaningless, but it's not exactly inspiring confidence.

Punchline: *You're paying \$24 for a pitcher moving to a bandbox. Brady Singer is about to learn what "pitcher-friendly" meant in Kansas City the hard way. This is the most expensive "meh" on your roster.*

Nick Martinez (SP) — TB | \$4

Role/Status: Swingman/back-end starter for Tampa Bay. SP/RP eligibility is nice. 35 years old.

Value Assessment: Streamer with a floor. His 2024 was excellent (3.10 ERA, 1.03 WHIP), his 2025 was mediocre (4.45 ERA). The projection of 413 points is optimistic given the age and declining stuff.

Risk Factors: He's 35, his K/9 dropped to 6.3 in 2025, and Tampa Bay is Tampa Bay — they'll yank him from the rotation the moment a prospect is ready. The 6.3 K/9 is genuinely bad for a fantasy starter.

Punchline: *Nick Martinez is the pitcher equivalent of a Honda Civic — reliable, boring, and nobody's excited to see it in the driveway. At \$4, fine. Just don't expect it to win you any races.*

Troy Melton (RP) — DET | \$2

Role/Status: Middle reliever for Detroit. Currently dealing with an **elbow strain**. Only pitched 45.2 innings in 2025.

Value Assessment: Landmine. Projected for 167 points, which is barely worth a roster spot. The 2.76 ERA was nice, but in only 45 innings with an elbow strain, this is a dead roster spot until further notice.

Risk Factors: ELBOW. STRAIN. FOR. A. PITCHER. Those are the three scariest words in fantasy baseball. At 25 years old with limited track record, this could go

sideways fast.

Punchline: *Troy Melton's elbow is the canary in the coal mine of this pitching staff. At \$2, you can afford to cut bait, and you probably should.*

Jack Dreyer (RP) — LAD | \$4

Role/Status: High-leverage reliever for the Dodgers. 67 games, 2.95 ERA, 4 saves, 10 holds in 2025. Only 3% owned.

Value Assessment: Sleeper. A sub-3.00 ERA with a 1.05 WHIP and 8.7 K/9 in the Dodgers bullpen? At 3% ownership? This is either a hidden gem or the market knows something you don't. The Dodgers' bullpen is a revolving door of talent, so role stability is a concern.

Risk Factors: Only 4 saves — he's not the closer. The Dodgers have approximately 47 relievers who could steal innings. His projection drops from 328 to 308, suggesting slight regression.

Punchline: *Jack Dreyer is the fantasy equivalent of finding \$20 in your coat pocket. Nice surprise, but it's not paying the rent.*

Shane Bieber (SP) — TOR | \$15

Role/Status: "Throwing from 120 feet." That's not a pitcher — that's a guy playing catch in a park. Made 7 starts in 2025 (40.1 IP) after making 2 starts in 2024 (12 IP). CBS ranks him #31.

Value Assessment: High-risk, high-reward gamble at a premium price. When healthy, Bieber is elite (5.3 K/BB ratio in 2025). But he's been healthy for approximately 15 minutes over the past two years.

Risk Factors: Where do I start? UCL issues, limited innings, "throwing from 120 feet" in spring training, and you're paying \$15 for the privilege of worrying about him every single day. If he doesn't pitch until May or June, you've burned a roster spot and \$15 for half a season — maybe.

Punchline: *Shane Bieber at \$15 is like buying a sports car that's been in three accidents. Sure, it COULD be amazing. But you're going to spend a lot of time in the shop. And crying.*

Jeff Hoffman (RP) — TOR | \$8

Role/Status: Closer for the Blue Jays. 33 saves in 2025. Plans to "ease back on the fastball."

Value Assessment: Solid closer, but the regression from 2024 to 2025 is concerning. ERA doubled from 2.17 to 4.37. WHIP went up. K rate went down. He's

33 and tinkering with his approach.

Risk Factors: Age-33 reliever on a rebuilding Blue Jays team. Could be traded. Could lose the closer role. Could continue regressing. The 15 HR allowed in 68 IP is genuinely terrifying for a closer.

Punchline: *Jeff Hoffman went from "elite setup man nobody knew about" to "closer who gives up bombs." The circle of reliever life. At least he'll give you saves while he implodes.*

Hunter Gaddis (RP) — CLE | \$5

Role/Status: High-leverage reliever for Cleveland. 73 games, 35 holds, 3.10 ERA in 2025. MRI on forearm came back negative (thank God).

Value Assessment: Steal. Projected for 423.6 points at \$5 with only 12% ownership. Elite ratios (3.10 ERA, 1.19 WHIP, 9.9 K/9) and he's only 27. If Emmanuel Clase ever falters, Gaddis is next in line for saves.

Risk Factors: The forearm scare is exactly that — a scare. But forearm issues in relievers are the gateway drug to elbow problems. Monitor closely.

Punchline: *Hunter Gaddis is the best-kept secret on this roster. 12% owned, 423 projected points, \$5 salary. If you don't tell anyone about him, he might actually stay on your team all year.*

6. Best Picks / Steals

- **Jacob Wilson (SS) — \$7:** A 23-year-old with elite contact skills, projected for 520+ points, at \$7. This is the kind of keeper that builds dynasties. The 39-strikeout season is not a fluke — this kid's bat-to-ball skills are real. Best value on the entire roster.
 - **Tyler Soderstrom (LF/1B) — \$7:** 25 HR, 93 RBI, .820 OPS at 23 years old. Projected for 490 points. Mashing in spring training. At \$7, this is the second-best value on the roster and it's not close.
 - **Kyle Stowers (LF) — \$7:** The breakout was real — .288/25/73 with a .912 OPS. Projected for 536 points (highest on the roster). At \$7, even with the injury concern, this is outstanding value.
 - **Ramon Laureano — \$5:** A .854 OPS season for \$5 from a guy everyone left for dead. The projection systems believe in the comeback. Beautiful buy-low that already paid off.
 - **Hunter Gaddis — \$5:** 423 projected points from a 12%-owned reliever at \$5. This is the definition of a sleeper. Elite ratios, potential closer upside, dirt cheap.
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7. Worst Picks / "What Were You Thinking?"

- **☐ Shane Bieber at \$15:** You are paying \$15 — the second-highest salary on your roster — for a man who has thrown 52.1 innings in two years and is currently playing long toss. This is the fantasy equivalent of pre-ordering a video game that's been delayed four times. The upside is real, but so is the very real possibility you just lit \$15 on fire. What the hell were you thinking?
 - **☐ Brady Singer at \$24:** Your most expensive player is a pitcher with a 4.03 ERA moving to Great American Ball Park. Let that sink in. You're paying premium dollars for a mid-rotation arm in the most homer-friendly environment in baseball. This is like buying a white couch and then adopting three dogs.
 - **☐ Nolan Schanuel at \$6:** At first base — a position where you can find 25+ HR guys on the waiver wire — you're rostering a guy with 12 HR and a .389 SLG. His "best skill" is walking, which is great for real baseball and utterly useless for your fantasy team. \$6 for a guy projected for 382 points at the deepest position in fantasy is a waste of resources.
 - **☐ Troy Melton at \$2:** The cost is fine, but the elbow strain makes this a dead roster spot. You're carrying 15 players and one of them is a middle reliever who might not pitch for weeks (or months). That's a luxury a 15-man roster can't afford.
 - **☐ Andy Pages at \$9:** Not a terrible pick, but paying \$9 for a guy the projections think is a 373-point player (after a 489-point season) means you're betting on the outlier, not the median. The walk rate is scary bad, and if the power regresses even slightly, you're overpaying significantly.
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8. Draft-Day Advice / Next Moves

1. **Cut Troy Melton immediately.** An elbow strain on a middle reliever projected for 167 points is not worth a roster spot on a 15-man team. Use that spot on literally anything else.
2. **Target starting pitching AGGRESSIVELY in the draft.** You have two reliable starters (Singer and Martinez) and a question mark (Bieber). That's not enough. You need at least two more legitimate SP arms or this season is over before Memorial Day.
3. **Address the stolen base deficit.** Look for speed-first players in the draft or on waivers. You're currently projected to finish last in steals, and that's a category you can't just ignore. Target guys like Esteury Ruiz, Jose Caballero, or whoever the speed merchant du jour is.

4. **Trade Nolan Schanuel.** Package him with a pitcher to upgrade at 1B. You have Soderstrom and Keith who can both play 1B. Schanuel is redundant and underwhelming.
 5. **Monitor Shane Bieber's timeline obsessively.** If he's not on a major league mound by mid-May, consider trading him to a contender who can afford to wait. \$15 on the IL is a luxury you can't sustain.
 6. **Handcuff Jeff Hoffman.** If there's a Blue Jays reliever who could close if Hoffman gets traded or loses the job, grab him now. Hoffman on a rebuilding team is a trade candidate, and you don't want to lose your only reliable saves source without a backup plan.
 7. **Target a second closer in the draft.** You need saves badly. Hoffman is your only real closer, and his 2025 regression is alarming. Don't leave the draft without another closer or strong closer-in-waiting.
 8. **Consider trading Andy Pages.** His 2025 numbers (489 FPTS) far exceed his 2026 projection (373). Other managers might pay for the 2025 version. Sell high before the regression hits.
 9. **Add a backup catcher.** Dingler is your only catcher, and the "throwing to bases" headline suggests potential early-season limitations. If he hits the IL, you're starting nobody at C.
 10. **Ride the Oakland wave, but have exit plans.** Wilson and Soderstrom are great, but Oakland's lineup is thin. If either starts slow, don't panic — but also don't be afraid to sell if someone overpays.
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9. Final Grade

Grade: C+

This is a team with a genuinely exciting young core of hitters — Wilson, Soderstrom, Stowers, and Laureano at their prices are the envy of the league. But the pitching staff is a house of cards built on an active fault line. Two of your seven pitchers have health red flags (Bieber, Melton), your most expensive player is a mid-rotation arm moving to a handbox, and your saves situation is one Hoffman trade away from catastrophe. The batting lineup can compete; the pitching staff cannot — not as currently constructed.

If this team wins, it'll be because... the young bats (Wilson, Soderstrom, Stowers) all take another step forward simultaneously, Bieber miraculously returns to ace form, and Hunter Gaddis becomes Cleveland's closer. Basically, everything has to break right.

If this team loses, it'll be because... the pitching staff implodes — which is the most likely outcome. Singer gets torched in Cincinnati, Bieber never gets healthy, Hoffman continues regressing, and the manager spends all season scrambling for streaming options while watching the batting lineup put up numbers that don't matter because the pitchers gave up more.

In summary: great name, great young bats, garbage pitching plan. Fix the arms or prepare for a long, frustrating season of "we were so close" that you absolutely were not.