

The Dang Kookaburra Polks

Unbiased Team Analysis

August 07, 2026

Overall Grade: **C+**

□ The Dang Kookaburra Polks — Unbiased Analysis

A Team Named Like a Drunk Ornithologist's Fever Dream

1. Overall Team Summary (Brutal Honesty Edition)

Quick Verdict: Contender with a Pitching Staff That Could Either Win You a Championship or Give You an Ulcer

The Dang Kookaburra Polks — and yes, I will be typing that ridiculous name in full every time because you deserve it — have assembled a roster that screams "I know what I'm doing... mostly." You've got a legitimate ace in Paul Skenes, a catcher who hit **60 goddamn home runs** last year, and a bullpen that's surprisingly stacked. But you've also got Sean Manaea at \$33 coming off a season where he pitched like he was throwing with his non-dominant hand while blindfolded, and you're paying \$27 for Sandy Alcantara to pitch for the Miami Marlins, a franchise that treats winning like a suggestion rather than a goal.

□ **One-liner roast:** You spent \$93 on three starting pitchers whose combined 2025 fantasy points (724.9) were less than Cal Raleigh's alone (837.7). That's not roster construction — that's arson.

□ **One-liner compliment:** Locking up Paul Skenes, Cal Raleigh, and a four-headed reliever monster at those salaries is the kind of work that makes other managers lose sleep.

2. Roster Construction & Strategy

What the manager prioritized:

- **Elite relievers.** Four RPs taking up roster spots is a bold move. You went all-in on saves, holds, strikeouts, and low ratios from the bullpen. Pagan (32 saves),

Smith (16 saves + 19 holds), Uribe (7 saves + 37 holds), and Weaver (8 saves + 21 holds) combine for 63 saves and 77 holds. That's a goddamn relief factory.

- **Speed + Power balance in the lineup.** You've got 60 HRs from Raleigh, 30 SBs from Naylor, 31 from Abrams, and 24 from Turang. This isn't a one-trick lineup.
- **Cheap keepers with upside.** Turang at \$11, Adames at \$12, Uribe at \$8, Priester at \$9 — these are smart salary plays.

What they ignored:

- **Outfield depth.** You have ONE outfielder. *One.* TJ Friedl, who is 32% owned, projected to score 353.4 points, and whose 2025 was a masterclass in "fine, I guess." Your outfield is a barren wasteland with a single cactus growing in it.
- **Starting pitching reliability.** Behind Skenes, your rotation is a prayer circle. Holmes, Manaea, and Alcantara combined for a 4.84 ERA in 2025. Priester might not even be ready for Opening Day.
- **Batting average / OBP contributions.** Outside of Naylor (.295) and Turang (.288), this lineup is a collection of .220-.260 hitters. You're going to bleed in AVG categories.

Where the roster is fragile:

- Only 6 batters for what is presumably more than 6 batting slots. You have ZERO bench bats. If anyone gets hurt, you're streaming from the waiver wire like a desperate man at a buffet.
- Your SP depth behind Skenes is a house of cards in a hurricane.
- Friedl's health history is shakier than a Jenga tower in an earthquake — he played just 85 games in 2024.

3. Strengths

- **Cal Raleigh is a cheat code at catcher.** 60 HR, 125 RBI, .947 OPS, 14 stolen bases — FROM A CATCHER. At \$14, this is highway robbery. He's the single biggest positional advantage on your roster and possibly in the entire league. CBS Rank #52 feels disrespectful.
- **Paul Skenes is the best pitcher in fantasy baseball, and you have him.** A 1.97 ERA, 0.95 WHIP, 216 K in 187.2 IP, 20 quality starts. He's 23 years old. He's ranked #3 overall on CBS. At \$30, he's worth every penny and then some. This is your crown jewel.
- **The bullpen is elite and diversified.** Pagan gives you the saves floor, Uribe gives you the holds ceiling with a 1.67 ERA, Smith gives you the strikeouts (12.7

K/9), and Weaver gives you the safety net. Four relievers who all posted sub-3.00 WHIPs and double-digit K/9 rates. This is legitimately one of the best bullpen constructions I've seen.

- **Stolen base depth.** Naylor (30), Abrams (31), Turang (24), Raleigh (14), Adames (12), Friedl (12) = 123 steals from your lineup. You're not relying on one guy to carry speed — it's baked into the roster DNA.
 - **C.J. Abrams' age and trajectory.** He's 25, he's got 20/30 upside, and at \$16 he's a bargain for a SS-eligible player with elite speed and developing power. CBS ranks him #34 overall. This kid is just getting started.
 - **Salary efficiency on key keepers.** Turang (\$11), Adames (\$12), Priester (\$9), Smith (\$9), Uribe (\$8), Weaver (\$8) — six players at \$57 total. That's smart cap management that leaves room for draft-day spending.
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4. Weaknesses / Red Flags

- **☐ Sean Manaea at \$33 is a five-alarm fire.** He scored 79.5 fantasy points in 2025. SEVENTY-NINE POINT FIVE. He had a 5.64 ERA in 60.2 innings. He's 34 years old. You're paying him \$33 — the same as Josh Naylor, who actually produced. Yes, his 2024 was good. Yes, he says he "rediscovered his arm slot." And I "rediscovered" my car keys this morning — doesn't mean I'm ready for the Indy 500. This is the single worst value on your roster.
- **☐ Sandy Alcantara at \$27 is a hope-based investment.** He missed all of 2024 (Tommy John), came back in 2025 and posted a 5.36 ERA over 174.2 innings. The projection of 463.5 for 2026 is optimistic. He's pitching for Miami, which means even if he's good, the win support will be nonexistent. You're paying ace money for a guy who hasn't been an ace since 2022.
- **☐ TJ Friedl is your only outfielder, and he's barely rosterable.** 32% owned. Projected for 353.4 points. His 2025 was a slap-hitting, low-power slog (.378 SLG, 14 HR). He played 152 games, which is great for him, but 2024 was just 85 games. You are one Friedl hamstring tweak away from having zero outfielders. This is reckless.
- **Clay Holmes' projection is terrifying.** He scored 386.9 in 2025, which was... fine. But his 2026 projection is **155.2 points**. That's a 60% decline. His 2025 featured a 3.53 ERA but a 1.30 WHIP and only 7.0 K/9. At \$16, he's an overpay for a back-end starter with limited upside. Only 34% owned tells you everything.
- **You have 15 roster spots and only 6 batters.** That's 9 pitchers and 6 hitters. Unless your league has weird roster requirements, this is an absurdly pitcher-heavy build. You're going to need to draft or acquire bats aggressively, and your \$440 salary with all 15 spots as keepers leaves you zero draft budget flexibility.

- **Josh Naylor's 2025 was a mirage in some ways.** Yes, .295 AVG and 30 steals look great. But he hit just 20 HR after 31 in 2024. His ISO dropped from .213 to .168. He moved to Seattle, where power goes to die. His 2026 projection (528.4) is a notable decline from 2025 (605.9). At \$33, you need the 2024 version, and you might get the 2023 version instead.
 - **Quinn Priester "might not be ready for Opening Day."** That's literally in his news headline. At \$9 he's cheap, but you're already thin on SP. If he starts the year on the IL, your rotation is Skenes, Alcantara (yikes), Holmes (meh), and Manaea (please god). That's not a rotation — that's a cry for help.
 - **Willy Adames' 2025 was a step back.** .225 AVG, .739 OPS, down from .251/.794 in 2024. He's 30, he moved to San Francisco (another place where power goes to die), and his projection (534.2) is optimistic given the trend. At \$12 he's still fine value, but don't expect a bounceback to 2024 levels.
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5. Player-by-Player Takes

BATTERS

Cal Raleigh (C) — \$14

Role/Status: Starting catcher, Seattle. Entrenched. Launched his first spring homer because of course he did.

Value Assessment: ELITE. This man hit 60 home runs as a switch-hitting catcher. Sixty. He went from 34 HR in 2024 to 60 in 2025 — nearly doubling his output. His .948 OPS was absurd. His 7.26 WAR was absurd. At \$14, this might be the best value on any roster in your league.

Risk Factors: The 2026 projection (678.2) represents a significant regression from 837.7. That's fair — 60 HR is almost certainly unsustainable. Catcher wear-and-tear is real. But even a 35-40 HR season at catcher is elite.

□ **Verdict:** If you could marry a fantasy asset, you should propose to Cal Raleigh. \$14 for a catcher who hits like prime Giancarlo Stanton is the kind of deal that makes commissioners investigate collusion.

Josh Naylor (1B) — \$33

Role/Status: Starting 1B, Seattle. Full-time player. Moved from Cleveland to Seattle this offseason.

Value Assessment: Solid, but overpaid. .295/20/92/30 SB is a great line, but \$33 for a first baseman projected at 528.4 is a lot. The stolen bases (30!) were a revelation — he had just 6 in 2024 — but that kind of jump at age 27-28 is

suspicious. If the steals regress, you're paying \$33 for a .280/25/85 first baseman, which is... fine.

Risk Factors: Seattle's ballpark suppresses offense. The stolen base spike may not repeat. His early 2026 line (1-for-17, .059 AVG) is spring training noise, but it's not inspiring.

□ **Verdict:** Naylor went from "lunch pail first baseman" to "Josh Naylor: Speed Demon" in one year. I'm not saying I don't believe it, but I am saying I'd like to see the receipts.

Brice Turang (2B) — \$11

Role/Status: Starting 2B, Milwaukee. Everyday player in a good lineup.

Value Assessment: Solid value play. His 2025 breakout was real — .288/18/81/24 SB with a 5.52 WAR. He went from 7 HR in 2024 to 18, and his ISO jumped from .095 to .147. At \$11, he's a steal if the power gains stick.

Risk Factors: The power surge could be a one-year blip. His 2024 was a speed-only profile (50 SB but .254/.349 SLG). If he reverts, you're getting a .260 hitter with modest counting stats.

□ **Verdict:** Two spring training homers already? Turang said "that wasn't a fluke, bitch" and I respect it. At \$11, even a partial regression is playable.

Willy Adames (SS) — \$12

Role/Status: Starting SS, San Francisco. Signed a big free agent deal. Locked in.

Value Assessment: Solid floor, concerning trajectory. 30 HR and 12 SB is fine, but the .225 AVG and .739 OPS were career-worst marks for a full season. Oracle Park isn't going to help. His projection (534.2) is actually higher than his 2025 output (475.2), which feels generous.

Risk Factors: Age 30, declining batting average trend, pitcher-friendly park. The strikeout rate (179 K) is a problem.

□ **Verdict:** At \$12 you're not going to complain. But Adames in San Francisco feels like putting a sports car in a garage and never driving it. The power is there, but Oracle Park is going to eat some of those fly balls alive.

TJ Friedl (CF) — \$13

Role/Status: Starting OF, Cincinnati. Getting starts in LF per recent news, which suggests his CF role might not even be secure.

Value Assessment: Streamer-tier at best. 32% owned. Let that sink in. Two-thirds of fantasy managers don't want this guy for free, and you're paying \$13 for

him. His 2025 was a full season of mediocrity — .261/.378 SLG, 14 HR, 12 SB. His 2023 was great (547.2 FPTS), but that was three years ago.

Risk Factors: Injury history (85 games in 2024), declining power, moving to LF isn't a great sign, and his 2026 projection (353.4) would make him one of the worst starters in fantasy.

□ **Verdict:** TJ Friedl is the friend who peaked in high school and keeps talking about that one game-winning catch. At \$13, he's an overpay for a guy who might not even be your league's best waiver wire option at OF. This is your worst position player by a country mile.

C.J. Abrams (SS) — \$16

Role/Status: Starting SS, Washington. Franchise cornerstone. Only 25 years old.

Value Assessment: Solid with elite upside. .257/19/60/31 SB is a nice five-category contributor. CBS ranks him #34 overall. He's young, he's fast, and the power is still developing. His 2025 was a lateral move from 2024, which is slightly concerning, but the consistency is actually reassuring.

Risk Factors: The batting average (.257) and walk rate (37 BB vs 125 K) limit his OBP ceiling. He's on a mediocre Nationals team, which caps counting stats.

□ **Verdict:** Abrams is the 25-year-old who hasn't fully figured it out yet but keeps showing you flashes of "oh shit, this guy could be special." At \$16, you're buying the trajectory, and that's a reasonable bet.

PITCHERS

Paul Skenes (SP) — \$30

Role/Status: Ace. THE ace. Pittsburgh's franchise arm. Gearing up for WBC because he's a competitive psychopath and we love it.

Value Assessment: ELITE. Generational. 1.97 ERA, 0.95 WHIP, 216 K, 20 QS, 7.64 WAR. He's 23 years old. He's ranked #3 overall on CBS. He is the best pitcher in fantasy baseball and it's not particularly close. The only thing keeping him from being #1 overall is that he plays for the Pirates, a team that treats run support like an optional luxury.

Risk Factors: 187.2 innings at age 22 is a lot. Workload management could cap his 2026 innings. Pittsburgh's offense is allergic to scoring. 10 losses despite a sub-2.00 ERA is criminal.

□ **Verdict:** Paul Skenes at \$30 is like buying a Lamborghini at Honda Civic prices. He's your entire pitching staff's identity. If this man stays healthy, you're in every

matchup.

Quinn Priester (SP) — \$9

Role/Status: Starter, Milwaukee. BUT — "might not be ready for Opening Day" per recent news. That's concerning.

Value Assessment: Solid upside play at a great price. His 2025 breakout (3.32 ERA, 13 W, 132 K in 157.1 IP) was legitimate. Milwaukee's pitching development is elite. At \$9, even if he misses a few weeks, the value is there when he returns.

Risk Factors: The Opening Day concern, whatever that's about. His pre-2025 track record is ugly (7.74 ERA in 2023, 4.71 in 2024). One good year doesn't make a trend. The 7.55 K/9 is below average for a fantasy starter.

□ **Verdict:** Priester is the reclamation project that actually worked, which means you'll spend all season terrified he'll revert to the guy who had a 1.70 WHIP two years ago. At \$9, the risk is manageable. Just have a backup plan for April.

Sandy Alcantara (SP) — \$27

Role/Status: Starter, Miami. Came back from Tommy John in 2025. Full season expected in 2026.

Value Assessment: Overpaid hope. His 2025 return was rough — 5.36 ERA, 1.27 WHIP in 174.2 innings. The projection (463.5) assumes significant improvement, which is possible as he gets further from surgery. But \$27 is ace money, and he hasn't been an ace since his Cy Young season.

Risk Factors: Tommy John recovery timeline (often takes 18+ months to regain full velocity/command), Miami's terrible offense, and the Marlins' general commitment to losing. Even if Alcantara pitches well, he might go 8-14 with a 3.50 ERA because his team scores 2 runs per game.

□ **Verdict:** You're paying \$27 for Sandy Alcantara in the same way someone buys a fixer-upper house — with dreams of what it could be and willful ignorance of the foundation cracks. If he returns to form, you look like a genius. If he doesn't, you just lit \$27 on fire.

Sean Manaea (SP) — \$33

Role/Status: Starter, NYM. Says he "rediscovered his arm slot" over the offseason. Cool story, bro.

Value Assessment: LANDMINE. □ Let's be crystal clear: Sean Manaea scored 79.5 fantasy points in 2025. He had a 5.64 ERA in 60.2 innings. He made 15 appearances and 12 starts. He was worth NEGATIVE WAR (-0.37). And you're

paying him **THIRTY-THREE DOLLARS**. That's tied for the highest salary on your team. The same as Josh Naylor, who was actually good.

Risk Factors: He's 34. His 2024 was the outlier in a career of mediocrity. His K rate was elite (11.1 K/9) but it didn't matter because he couldn't stop getting shelled. The "rediscovered arm slot" story is the kind of spring training hopium that gets fantasy managers killed.

□ **Verdict:** This is the pick that makes me question whether you were drunk during your keeper selections. \$33 for a 34-year-old coming off a season where he was literally replacement-level. If this works out, you should buy a lottery ticket. If it doesn't — and the odds say it won't — you just wasted the biggest salary slot on your roster on a guy 40% of leagues don't even want.

Clay Holmes (SP) — \$16

Role/Status: Starter, NYM. Converted from closer to starter in 2025. "Already stretched out for WBC."

Value Assessment: Streamer with a scary projection. His 2025 was passable — 3.53 ERA, 12 W, 129 K in 165.2 IP. But his 2026 projection is **155.2 points**. That's a catastrophic drop. Only 34% owned. The conversion from reliever to starter has been fine but not good — 1.30 WHIP and 7.0 K/9 don't inspire confidence.

Risk Factors: The projection cliff is alarming. His sinker-heavy approach leads to a lot of contact. He's 32 and was a reliever for most of his career for a reason.

□ **Verdict:** Clay Holmes is the guy at the party who seems normal until you realize he's been wearing the same shirt for three days. Functional, present, but you're not sure you trust him. At \$16, he's overpriced for what the projections say he'll deliver.

Emilio Pagan (RP) — \$10

Role/Status: Closer, Cincinnati. 32 saves in 2025. Locked into the 9th inning.

Value Assessment: Solid closer at a fair price. 2.88 ERA, 0.92 WHIP, 10.6 K/9, 32 saves. That's a legitimate closer. At \$10, you're getting elite save production without breaking the bank.

Risk Factors: He's 34. His early 2026 line (22.50 ERA, 6 hits in 2 IP) is spring training but still ugly. His 2024 was bad (115.7 FPTS), meaning the 2025 was the outlier in recent history. Closers are volatile by nature.

□ **Verdict:** Pagan is the cockroach of fantasy closers — you think he's done, and then he posts 32 saves with a sub-3.00 ERA. At \$10, ride it until the wheels fall off. Just have a handcuff ready.

Luke Weaver (RP) — \$8

Role/Status: High-leverage reliever, NYM. 8 saves + 21 holds in 2025. Setup man with occasional closing duties.

Value Assessment: Sneaky good value. His projection (437.1) is actually higher than his 2025 output (335.1), suggesting upside. His 2024 was excellent (452.6 FPTS, 2.89 ERA). At \$8, he's a bargain for a reliever who contributes across multiple categories.

Risk Factors: Only 22% owned, which means the market doesn't believe in him. He's 32. His 2023 was a disaster (6.40 ERA as a starter). The Mets' bullpen hierarchy could shift.

□ **Verdict:** Weaver is the utility knife of your bullpen — not flashy, but useful in ways you don't appreciate until he's gone. At \$8, there's almost no downside.

Cade Smith (RP) — \$9

Role/Status: High-leverage reliever/closer, Cleveland. 16 saves + 19 holds in 2025. CBS Rank: #6 OVERALL.

Value Assessment: Elite. Wait — CBS ranks this man #6 overall? In all of fantasy? A reliever? That's... actually kind of insane, but his numbers back it up. 12.7 K/9, sub-1.00 WHIP in 2024, and he's only 26. Cleveland trusts him in every high-leverage situation.

Risk Factors: His 2025 was a slight step back from 2024 (ERA went from 1.91 to 2.93, projection drops to 389.1). If Cleveland commits to a full-time closer, Smith could lose save opportunities. Reliever volatility is always a concern.

□ **Verdict:** At \$9 for a guy ranked #6 on CBS? That's disgusting — in the best way. Even if the ranking is aggressive, Smith is an elite reliever asset at a basement-level price. This is one of your best keeps.

Abner Uribe (RP) — \$8

Role/Status: High-leverage reliever, Milwaukee. 7 saves + 37 holds in 2025. "Dazzles for Dominican team" in WBC.

Value Assessment: Elite upside at a steal price. 1.67 ERA, 10.8 K/9, 75.1 IP in 2025. He's only 25. His projection for 2026 (488.7) would be the highest on your pitching staff outside of Skenes. At \$8, this is borderline criminal.

Risk Factors: He missed almost all of 2024 (13.2 FPTS), so the durability question is real. Only 45% owned suggests the market is cautious. If Milwaukee doesn't give him the closer role, the save numbers stay modest.

□ **Verdict:** Uribe throws 100 mph, he's 25, he's projected for nearly 500 points, and you're paying \$8 for him. If he gets the closer job in Milwaukee, this becomes the best value on your entire roster. The man is a flamethrower in a \$8 suit.

6. Best Picks / Steals

- □ **Cal Raleigh at \$14.** A 60-HR catcher at \$14 is the kind of value that should be illegal. This is the steal of the century. Even with regression, he's a top-3 catcher in fantasy at a mid-round price. You absolute bandit.
 - □ **Paul Skenes at \$30.** Yes, \$30 is a lot. No, it's not enough for the best pitcher in baseball. A sub-2.00 ERA with 216 K at age 23 is generational talent at a discount. CBS ranks him #3 overall. You'd pay \$50 and still feel good about it.
 - □ **Cade Smith at \$9.** CBS Rank #6 overall. Nine dollars. The math doesn't math, but here we are. Elite K rate, elite ratios, saves AND holds. This is the keeper that makes other managers sick to their stomachs.
 - □ **Abner Uribe at \$8.** Projected for 488.7 points at \$8 is absurd value. If he stays healthy and gets more save opportunities, he could be a top-5 reliever in fantasy. The WBC buzz only adds to the hype.
 - □ **Brice Turang at \$11.** A 5+ WAR second baseman with 18 HR and 24 SB at \$11 is excellent. Even with some power regression, the speed and contact make him a reliable contributor at a thin position.
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7. Worst Picks / "What Were You Thinking?"

- □ **Sean Manaea at \$33.** I cannot stress this enough: you are paying \$33 for a 34-year-old who had a NEGATIVE WAR in 2025. He scored 79.5 fantasy points. Your four relievers at \$8-\$10 each individually outscored him. You could have kept literally anyone else. This is the fantasy equivalent of buying a timeshare in Chernobyl because the brochure looked nice. What the hell were you thinking?
- □ **Sandy Alcantara at \$27.** Tommy John recovery is a two-year process, and his first year back was ugly. \$27 for a guy on the Marlins with a 5.36 ERA is paying champagne prices for gas station wine. The upside is real, but so is the likelihood you just wasted \$27 on 12-15 losses.
- □ **TJ Friedl at \$13.** Your only outfielder is a 32%-owned, 30-year-old with declining power and an injury history. He's projected for 353 points, which would make him a below-average starter at any position. You're paying \$13 for a guy most leagues got for free. And he's your ONLY outfielder. This isn't just a bad pick — it's a structural failure.

- **□ Clay Holmes at \$16.** A projection of 155.2 points at \$16 means you're paying roughly \$0.10 per fantasy point. For context, Cade Smith at \$9 with 389 projected points is \$0.02 per point. Holmes is five times less efficient. The conversion experiment might work, but the data says otherwise.
 - **□ Having only 6 batters and 9 pitchers.** This isn't a specific player complaint — it's a philosophical one. You have zero bench bats, zero outfield depth, and zero margin for error on offense. One injury to any hitter and you're scrambling. This roster construction is a tightrope walk with no net.
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8. Draft-Day Advice / Next Moves

1. **DRAFT OUTFIELDERS. IMMEDIATELY. MULTIPLE.** You have one outfielder, and he's bad. Your first 2-3 draft picks should be outfielders. Target high-floor OFs with everyday roles — you can't afford more risk at this position.
2. **Seriously consider cutting Sean Manaea.** \$33 is an enormous salary for a guy projected at 425.8 points. You could draft a comparable SP for \$15-20 and use the savings elsewhere. The "rediscovered arm slot" narrative is not worth \$33 of your cap space. Free up that money.
3. **Explore trading Clay Holmes.** If someone in your league believes in the SP conversion, sell high (or at least sell even). His 155.2-point projection makes him a liability at \$16. Package him in a deal for a reliable OF or a better SP.
4. **Get a backup catcher or a utility bat.** If Raleigh goes down, you have no catcher. Period. Draft a cheap backup C or a multi-position eligible bat who can slot in anywhere.
5. **Target high-AVG bats in the draft.** Your lineup is going to struggle in batting average categories. Look for .280+ hitters to balance out the Adames/Raleigh/Abrams sub-.260 averages.
6. **Handcuff Emilio Pagan.** He's 34 and closers are fragile. Whoever is next in line in Cincinnati's bullpen should be on your watch list. If Pagan loses the job, you lose 30+ saves overnight.
7. **Monitor Quinn Priester's Opening Day status closely.** If he's going to miss time, you need a streaming SP ready to go. Don't get caught with only 3 healthy starters in April.
8. **Draft a 3B.** You don't have one. Unless Naylor or someone has 3B eligibility I'm not seeing, you need to fill this position. Don't punt it.
9. **Consider flipping Abner Uribe if his WBC hype inflates his value.** He's great, but you already have 4 RPs. If someone offers you a starting OF for Uribe, take it. You can afford to lose one reliever — you can't afford to keep running one outfielder.

10. **Don't panic on Alcantara yet.** Unlike Manaea, Alcantara has a legitimate ace ceiling and is only 30. Give him until mid-May. If the ERA is still above 4.50, explore trade options before his value craters further.

9. Final Grade

Grade: C+

This roster has a legitimate ace (Skenes), a historic catcher season to build on (Raleigh), and one of the best bullpens in fantasy. That's a strong foundation. But the cracks are deep: a \$33 albatross in Manaea, a \$27 gamble in Alcantara, one lonely outfielder, no bench bats, and a pitching staff that outside of Skenes could generously be described as "hoping for the best." The salary allocation is wildly inefficient at the top — \$76 combined on Manaea and Alcantara for two guys who combined for 338.4 FPTS in 2025 is indefensible.

The cheap keeper values (Turang, Smith, Uribe, Weaver, Priester, Adames) are genuinely excellent and show real fantasy acumen. But the big-money mistakes drag the whole roster down. You built a sports car engine and then attached it to a bicycle frame.

If this team wins, it'll be because... Paul Skenes pitches like a god, Cal Raleigh proves 60 HR wasn't a fluke, the bullpen dominance carries the pitching categories, and either Manaea or Alcantara actually returns to form — turning a \$60 liability into a \$60 bargain.

If this team loses, it'll be because... you brought a knife to a gunfight in the outfield, paid \$66 for two starting pitchers who combined for the fantasy output of a league-average reliever, and had zero margin for error on a roster with no bench depth. One injury, one prolonged slump, and this whole house of cards comes tumbling down — probably around mid-June, when you're staring at your one outfielder hitting .230 and wondering why you kept Sean Manaea at \$33.
