

The South Side Fuck Ups

Unbiased Team Analysis

June 09, 2026

Overall Grade: **C+**

□ The South Side Fuck Ups: Unbiased Analysis □

The Mendoza Line League | 2026 Season

1. Overall Team Summary (Brutal Honesty Edition)

Quick Verdict: Competitive Pretender With a Gambling Problem

This is a team that looks like it was drafted by someone who kept muttering "value, value, value" while ignoring the fact that half these guys are either hurt, old, or playing for the Miami Marlins. You've assembled a roster that *could* compete if everything breaks right — which is another way of saying you need roughly 14 different things to go your way simultaneously, like hitting a parlay at the sportsbook after your fifth beer.

One-liner roast: You named your team "The South Side Fuck Ups" and then rostered Andrew Benintendi on the actual White Sox, which is less of a team name and more of a mission statement.

One-liner compliment: Locking up Taylor Ward at \$8 and Cade Horton at \$8 shows you're not *completely* braindead — just mostly.

2. Roster Construction & Strategy

What you prioritized: Reliever depth (four RPs!), mid-tier starting pitching with upside, and a bunch of \$5 keeper bargain-bin hitters hoping to strike gold. You clearly tried to build a balanced roster on the cheap and then blew your wad on Seiya Suzuki (\$51) and Cody Bellinger (\$45) like a guy who eats ramen all week then drops \$200 at a steakhouse on Saturday.

What you ignored:

- **Stolen bases.** Outside of Bogaerts' surprising 20 swipes and some modest contributions from Harris and Butler, this team runs like it's wearing concrete

cleats. Correa has literally zero stolen bases in two consecutive seasons. The man is 31 and runs like he's 41.

- **Batting average.** Almost nobody on this roster hit above .280 last year. You're fielding a team whose collective batting average might actually flirt with the name of your league.
- **A true ace beyond Wheeler.** Framber is solid, but after that it's hope and prayers.

Where the roster is fragile:

- You have **three players currently day-to-day** (Wheeler - shoulder, Benintendi - Achilles, Butler - knee). Your ace, one of your OF starters, and a young upside bat. Cool. Cool cool cool.
- Seth Lugo is also day-to-day with a back issue. That's **four injured players** on a 21-man roster. Nearly 20% of your team is held together with duct tape and ibuprofen.
- You're heavily invested in two Miami Marlins players (Ramirez and Fairbanks). The *Marlins*. The team that exists primarily to make other teams feel better about themselves.

3. Strengths

- **Bellinger is a legitimate stud at a reasonable-ish price.** 29 HR, 98 RBI, 13 SB, 5.04 WAR in 2025. At \$45 he's not cheap, but he's your best hitter and he's producing like it. The man carried this roster on his back like a parent carrying a sleeping toddler through an airport.
- **Reliever depth is genuinely impressive.** Bednar (27 saves, 2.30 ERA), Fairbanks (27 saves, 2.83 ERA), Devin Williams (18 saves + 15 holds), JoJo Romero (8 saves + 24 holds), and Tyler Rogers (32 holds, sub-2.00 ERA). You're going to dominate saves and holds categories. This is the backbone of your team, and you know it.
- **Taylor Ward at \$8 is highway robbery.** 36 homers, 103 RBI, and a .792 OPS for eight goddamn dollars. That's the kind of value that makes other managers want to flip the table.
- **Cade Horton at \$8 is a beautiful young arm.** 2.67 ERA, 11 wins, 1.08 WHIP as a 23-year-old in his first full season. He's 24 now and projected for ~450 points. At \$8, this is the kind of pick that makes you look like a genius — assuming his arm doesn't fall off, which with young pitchers is always a coin flip.
- **Positional flexibility in the infield.** Ernie Clement qualifies at 1B/2B/3B/SS. Correa at 3B/SS. Bogaerts at SS. Otto Lopez at 2B/SS. You can plug and play

around injuries, which — given your injury situation — you're going to need desperately.

- **Several \$5 keepers with legitimate upside.** Ramirez, Clement, Benintendi, Otto Lopez, Romero — all at minimum salary. If even two of them pop, you've got serious surplus value.
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4. Weaknesses / Red Flags

- **Agustin Ramirez is 0-for-14 with 6 strikeouts to start 2026.** Zero hits. Zero walks. Zero everything. Your catcher is cosplaying as a pitcher at the plate. Yes, it's early. But a .000/.000/.000 slash line is the kind of thing that makes you wonder if he forgot which end of the bat to hold. His 2025 wasn't great either — .231 AVG, .287 OBP, negative WAR. At 74% owned he's not a nobody, but he's a massive risk at catcher.
- **Seiya Suzuki at \$51 is your most expensive player and it's... fine?** He's projected for 481 points. That's solid, not elite. You're paying Ferrari money for a Lexus. His 164 strikeouts in 2025 are genuinely alarming, and the news that he "could DH often against lefties" suggests platoon concerns. For \$51 you need a top-30 player, and he's ranked #57 by CBS.
- **Carlos Correa's decline is real and accelerating.** From .310/.388/.517 in 2024 (86 games) to .276/.332/.402 in 2025 (144 games). Zero stolen bases. 19 GIDPs. He's projected for a bounceback to 456 points, but the trend line looks like a ski slope. At \$9 the price is right, but don't expect 2019 Correa.
- **Xander Bogaerts at \$19 is an overpay for a declining 33-year-old.** He missed significant time in 2024, came back to hit .263 with 11 homers in 2025, and is now being talked about as a *leadoff hitter* — which is Padres-speak for "we need him to get on base because he can't drive the ball anymore." His ISO has dropped every year. You're paying \$19 for a player who might be the fourth-best SS on your own roster.
- **Zack Wheeler's shoulder is terrifying.** He's 35 years old, day-to-day with a shoulder issue, and only threw 149.2 innings in 2025 (down from 200 in 2024). When healthy he's an ace — 2.71 ERA, 11.7 K/9, nearly 6:1 K/BB. But "when healthy" is doing a LOT of heavy lifting for a 35-year-old arm at \$44. If Wheeler goes down long-term, your pitching staff goes from "decent" to "dumpster fire" faster than you can say "IL stint."
- **Seth Lugo had a brutal 2025 and is already hurt again.** 4.15 ERA, 1.29 WHIP, 27 homers allowed in 145 innings. He's 36 years old with a back issue. You're paying \$20 for a guy whose best days are clearly behind him and whose

body is actively protesting. The 2024 season (723 FPTS, 2.57 ERA) was the outlier, not the norm.

- **Michael King only threw 73 innings in 2025.** 203 fantasy points. That's it. He's projected for 477 in 2026, which would require him to essentially double his 2025 output. At \$18, you're betting on the 2024 version (606 FPTS) showing back up. The news says he looked "impressive in spring" — and spring stats are about as meaningful as preseason NFL scores.
 - **Devin Williams posted a 4.79 ERA in 2025.** For a closer/high-leverage reliever, that's... not good. His -0.26 WAR means he was literally worse than a replacement-level player. Yes, the K rate is still elite (13.1 K/9), but you're paying \$19 for a reliever who might not even close. The news about "expanding his arsenal" is code for "his changeup isn't fooling people anymore and he's panicking."
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5. Player-by-Player Takes

BATTERS

Agustin Ramirez (C) — MIA | \$5

Role: Starting catcher for the Marlins. Which is like being the starting quarterback for your local YMCA flag football team.

Value: Streamer with upside. At \$5 the price is right, but he's a 24-year-old who hit .231 with a .287 OBP in his first full season and is currently 0-for-14 to start 2026. CBS ranks him #7 at catcher, which says more about the wasteland of fantasy catchers than it does about Ramirez.

Risk: High. Playing for Miami means limited lineup protection, and his plate discipline (36 BB vs 113 K) is concerning. The 0-for-14 start could be small sample noise or a sign that pitchers have figured him out.

Punchline: *He's the best catcher on the Marlins, which is like being the tallest person in a room full of hobbits.*

Ernie Clement (3B) — TOR | \$5

Role: Super-utility infielder who somehow played 157 games in 2025. The man is everywhere, like glitter after a craft project.

Value: Solid depth piece. .277 AVG, low power (9 HR), but the multi-position eligibility is genuinely useful. He's 5-for-10 to start 2026, which is nice but means nothing.

Risk: Low ceiling. Only 35% owned. He's a contact hitter with no walks (27 BB in 588 PA) and minimal power. He's the fantasy equivalent of plain oatmeal — fills a spot, won't excite anyone.

Punchline: *At \$5 he's fine. At anything more he'd be an insult.*

Carlos Correa (SS) — HOU | \$9

Role: Starting shortstop for Houston. Wait — he's back in Houston? Okay. The man has had more team changes than a chameleon has color changes.

Value: Solid if the projection holds. 456 projected points would be a significant bounceback from his 297-point 2025. But his 2025 was ugly — 13 HR, zero steals, 19 GIDPs. He's 0-for-6 to start 2026.

Risk: Medium-high. He's 31, the power has evaporated (ISO dropped from .207 to .127), and he runs like he's wearing ankle weights. The \$9 salary provides a cushion, but you need him to be at least a 400-point player to justify the roster spot.

Punchline: *Carlos Correa: because every team needs a shortstop who hits like a second baseman and runs like a first baseman.*

Xander Bogaerts (SS) — SD | \$19

Role: Starting SS for the Padres, apparently batting leadoff now. At 33, leading off is either a vote of confidence or a cry for help.

Value: Declining asset at a premium price. 357 FPTS in 2025, projected for 447 — but the projection feels optimistic given the trend. His power has been steadily draining like a phone battery at 3%.

Risk: Medium-high. Age 33, declining ISO (.129 to .117 to .128), and you're paying \$19 for a player ranked #86 by CBS. The 20 steals in 2025 were a pleasant surprise, but banking on a 33-year-old to keep running is bold.

Punchline: *\$19 for a guy whose OPS has dropped three straight years. That's not a keeper — that's a hostage situation.*

Michael Harris (CF) — ATL | \$12

Role: Starting CF for Atlanta. Still only 24, which is the most exciting thing about him right now.

Value: Solid. 20 HR, 86 RBI, 20 SB in 2025. That's a nice five-category contributor. But the .249 AVG and .268 OBP are concerning — 16 walks in 641 PA is genuinely embarrassing for a major leaguer. He walked less than some pitchers.

Risk: Medium. The lack of plate discipline caps his ceiling. He's ranked #37 by CBS and projected for 401 points, which feels about right. At \$12 he's fair value, not a steal.

Punchline: *Michael Harris walks less often than I walk past a Krispy Kreme without going in. And I always go in.*

Cody Bellinger (LF) — NYY | \$45

Role: Core OF for the Yankees. Your best hitter. Your anchor. Your reason to believe.

Value: Elite. 29 HR, 98 RBI, 13 SB, .813 OPS, 5.04 WAR in 2025. Projected for 592 points. At \$45 he's expensive but worth it — this is a legitimate top-50 fantasy asset producing like a top-20 player.

Risk: Low-medium. He's 30, which is fine. The 2024 dip (466 FPTS) shows he's not immune to off years, but the 2025 rebound was convincing. The projection shows a drop to 592 from 661, which is just regression to the mean, not a red flag.

Punchline: *Bellinger is the one player on this roster that makes other managers say "oh shit" when they see the matchup. Protect him at all costs.*

Andrew Benintendi (LF) — CHW | \$5

Role: Starting outfielder for the worst team in baseball. Currently day-to-day with an Achilles issue, which is the most White Sox thing possible.

Value: Projected for 464 points, which would be a career resurgence. His 2025 (359 FPTS) and 2024 (302 FPTS) suggest this projection is wildly optimistic. He hit 20 HR in both years, which is nice, but with a .240 AVG and 1 stolen base, he's a one-trick pony and the trick isn't even that impressive.

Risk: High. Achilles injuries are scary. Playing for the White Sox means no lineup protection, no meaningful games, and a general atmosphere of sadness. His negative WAR in 2024 (-0.77) shows the floor is very real.

Punchline: *You rostered a White Sox player and named your team "The South Side Fuck Ups." I can't tell if that's self-awareness or a cry for help.*

Otto Lopez (SS) — MIA | \$5

Role: Starting middle infielder for Miami. Quietly put together a 3.51 WAR season in 2025 that nobody noticed because he plays for the Marlins.

Value: Sneaky solid. 15 HR, 77 RBI, 15 SB in 2025. The 2B/SS eligibility is valuable. At \$5 he's a genuine bargain if he can maintain that production level. Projected for 405 points.

Risk: Medium. Only 42% owned, which means the market isn't fully buying in. The .246 AVG and .305 OBP are mediocre, and playing for Miami means he could get traded mid-season or lose playing time to whatever prospect they promote next.

Punchline: *Otto Lopez is the fantasy equivalent of finding a \$20 bill in your coat pocket. You didn't expect it, you're not sure how it got there, but you're not complaining.*

Seiya Suzuki (DH) — CHC | \$51

Role: Corner OF/DH for the Cubs. Your most expensive player. Let that sink in.

Value: Good, not great. 32 HR, 103 RBI, .804 OPS in 2025. Projected for 481 points. CBS ranks him #57. You're paying \$51 — the highest salary on your roster — for the 57th-ranked player. That math doesn't math.

Risk: Medium. The 164 strikeouts are brutal, and the DH-against-lefties news suggests the Cubs don't fully trust him. His OBP dropped from .366 in 2024 to .326 in 2025. At \$51 you need elite production, and "solid" doesn't cut it.

Punchline: *Paying \$51 for Seiya Suzuki is like buying a first-class ticket on a domestic flight. Sure, it's nice, but was it really worth it?*

Lawrence Butler (RF) — ATH | \$11

Role: Starting OF for Oakland. Young, toolsy, frustrating. The holy trinity of Athletics players.

Value: High upside at a great price. 21 HR, 22 SB in 2025 at age 24. Projected for 472 points. At \$11, that's excellent value if he takes a step forward. CBS ranks him #45.

Risk: Medium-high. Currently day-to-day with a knee issue. The .234 AVG and 179 strikeouts are horrifying — he K'd in 28.4% of his PAs. His spring debut is delayed. The 2025 was actually a step back from 2024 in terms of power (ISO dropped from .228 to .170).

Punchline: *Lawrence Butler: 22 stolen bases and 179 strikeouts. He's either running to first or running back to the dugout. No in between.*

Taylor Ward (LF) — BAL | \$8

Role: Starting OF for Baltimore. Your best value pick. The crown jewel of your bargain hunting.

Value: Outstanding. 36 HR, 103 RBI, .792 OPS for \$8. Projected for 477 points. That's nearly \$0.02 per fantasy point, which is the kind of efficiency that would make an accountant weep with joy.

Risk: Low-medium. He's 32, so there's some age concern, and the .228 AVG is ugly. But in Baltimore's lineup he'll get plenty of RBI opportunities, and the power is legit — 36 bombs don't lie.

Punchline: *Taylor Ward at \$8 is the best decision you've made since... well, possibly ever. Don't fuck this up by trading him.*

PITCHERS

Zack Wheeler (SP) — PHI | \$44

Role: Ace. When healthy, he's a top-5 fantasy pitcher. The "when healthy" part is doing heavy lifting right now.

Value: Elite ceiling. 2.71 ERA, 11.7 K/9, 5.9 K/BB in 2025. Projected for 601 points. But he only threw 149 innings (24 starts) after throwing 200 in 2024. The workload drop is a yellow flag the size of a billboard.

Risk: HIGH. Day-to-day with a shoulder issue at age 35. He's thrown his second bullpen session, which is encouraging, but shoulder problems for aging pitchers are the fantasy equivalent of hearing a weird noise from your car engine — it might be nothing, or your transmission is about to explode.

Punchline: *Paying \$44 for a 35-year-old arm with a bum shoulder is either brilliant or the dumbest thing since someone said "let's put pineapple on pizza." Time will tell.*

Seth Lugo (SP) — KC | \$20

Role: Mid-rotation starter for Kansas City. Currently day-to-day with a back issue because of course he is.

Value: Declining. 4.15 ERA, 1.29 WHIP, 27 homers allowed in 2025. That's a far cry from his spectacular 2024 (2.57 ERA, 723 FPTS). He's 36 years old. The projection system thinks he'll bounce back to 476 points, but projection systems also thought the 2025 Mets would be bad, so.

Risk: High. Age 36, back injury, coming off a bad year. At \$20, you're overpaying for what he is now and hoping you're getting what he was.

Punchline: *Seth Lugo in 2024 was a revelation. Seth Lugo in 2025 was a cautionary tale. Seth Lugo in 2026 is a \$20 prayer candle.*

Framber Valdez (SP) — DET | \$29

Role: Ace of the Tigers rotation. Looked sharp in his team debut (3 IP, 0 ER, 3 K in spring). The most reliable arm on your staff.

Value: Strong. 3.66 ERA, 187 K, 192 IP, 13 wins in 2025. Projected for 556 points. At \$29 he's fairly priced for a workhorse who eats innings and keeps you competitive every five days.

Risk: Low-medium. He's 32, but lefties tend to age well on the mound. The move to Detroit is interesting — weaker lineup support could hurt win totals, but the AL Central isn't exactly murderer's row.

Punchline: *Framber Valdez: the only player on your roster who shows up every fifth day and doesn't make you nervous. Cherish him.*

Michael King (SP) — SD | \$18

Role: Middle-of-the-rotation starter for San Diego. Missed significant time in 2025 (only 73 IP across 15 starts).

Value: Boom or bust. Projected for 477 points, but that requires him to more than double his 2025 output of 203 FPTS. His 2024 was excellent (606 FPTS), so the talent is there. Spring reports are positive.

Risk: High. Whatever kept him to 73 innings in 2025 is a major concern. At \$18, you need him healthy and pitching like a #2/3 starter. If he misses time again, that's \$18 of dead money.

Punchline: *Michael King is like that friend who's "definitely coming to the party" and then texts you at 10 PM saying he fell asleep. You want to believe him, but history says otherwise.*

Cade Horton (SP) — CHC | \$8

Role: Young stud in the Cubs rotation. 24 years old, coming off a strong debut season.

Value: Excellent. 2.67 ERA, 11-4, 1.08 WHIP in 118 innings as a 23-year-old. Projected for 449 points. At \$8, this is arguably your best pitching value. Sharp in spring. The arrow is pointing straight up.

Risk: Medium. Innings limit concerns — he only threw 118 IP in 2025, and young arms always carry injury risk. But the Cubs clearly trust him (22 starts), and the stuff is legit.

Punchline: *Cade Horton at \$8 is the kind of pick that makes you look like a prophet or a lunatic. Right now, prophet is winning.*

Devin Williams (RP) — NYM | \$19

Role: High-leverage reliever for the Mets. Closer? Setup? Who the hell knows. He had 18 saves AND 15 holds in 2025, which means even the Mets didn't know what

to do with him.

Value: Concerning. 4.79 ERA, negative WAR in 2025. The K rate is still elite (13.1 K/9), but the results aren't matching the stuff anymore. At \$19 for a reliever, you need dominance, not a 4.79 ERA.

Risk: High. He's "working on expanding his arsenal," which is reliever code for "hitters have figured out my one pitch." \$19 is a LOT for a reliever coming off his worst season.

Punchline: *Devin Williams at \$19: the most expensive middle reliever in your league's history. Congrats?*

Tyler Rogers (RP) — TOR | \$7

Role: Setup man / holds machine for Toronto. The submariner who somehow keeps getting outs.

Value: Sneaky good. 1.98 ERA, 32 holds, 77 innings in 2025. At \$7 and only 10% owned, he's a hidden gem if your league values holds. His 6.86 K/BB ratio is absurd for a guy who throws 82 mph.

Risk: Low floor, low ceiling. He's 35, doesn't strike anyone out (5.6 K/9), and has zero save opportunities. If Toronto's bullpen shuffles, he could lose his role. But at \$7, who cares?

Punchline: *Tyler Rogers throws like he's bowling and somehow has a sub-2.00 ERA. Baseball is weird.*

David Bednar (RP) — NYY | \$15

Role: Closer for the New York Yankees. That's a primo gig — high-leverage situations, save opportunities galore.

Value: Strong. 27 saves, 2.30 ERA, 12.4 K/9 in 2025. CBS ranks him #8 among RPs. At \$15, he's fairly priced for an elite closer on a contending team. Projected for 390 points.

Risk: Medium. His 2024 was a disaster (189 FPTS), showing the volatility of closers. But the 2025 bounceback was emphatic, and the Yankees will give him plenty of save chances.

Punchline: *Bednar on the Yankees is like giving a flamethrower to a guy who already had a gun. Dangerous in the best way.*

Pete Fairbanks (RP) — MIA | \$10

Role: Closer for the Marlins. 27 saves in 2025 despite playing for a team that barely won games. Impressive and depressing simultaneously.

Value: Good. 2.83 ERA, solid ratios, and he'll get save opportunities because Miami will have close games (mostly because they'll be losing by one instead of five). CBS ranks him #10 among RPs. At \$10, reasonable.

Risk: Medium. He's 32, has injury history, and closing for Miami means fewer save opportunities than a closer on a good team. Also, the Marlins could trade him at the deadline if they're sellers (spoiler: they will be).

Punchline: *Pete Fairbanks: saving games for the Marlins is like being the best dancer on the Titanic. Technically impressive, ultimately futile.*

JoJo Romero (RP) — STL | \$5

Role: High-leverage lefty for St. Louis. 8 saves, 24 holds, 2.07 ERA in 2025. A legitimate weapon.

Value: Underrated. Projected for 415 points at \$5 — that's outstanding value. Only 16% owned, which means he's flying completely under the radar. If he gets the closer job in St. Louis, this becomes a league-winning pick.

Risk: Medium. The 1.25 WHIP and 1.9 K/BB ratio suggest he's not as dominant as the ERA implies. Lefty relievers can be volatile. But at \$5, the risk/reward is heavily tilted in your favor.

Punchline: *JoJo Romero sounds like a character from a telenovela and pitches like one too — dramatic, unpredictable, but somehow it all works out.*

6. Best Picks / Steals

- **Taylor Ward at \$8:** 36 HR, 103 RBI for eight bucks. This is the steal of the draft. If your whole roster performed at this value-to-production ratio, you'd win the league by 200 points.
- **Cade Horton at \$8:** A 24-year-old with a sub-2.70 ERA and a 1.08 WHIP at minimum-ish salary. This is the kind of asset that appreciates faster than Bay Area real estate.
- **JoJo Romero at \$5:** 2.07 ERA, 32 combined saves+holds, projected for 415 points. At 16% ownership, you're getting a top-tier reliever for pocket change while the rest of your league sleeps.
- **David Bednar at \$15:** An elite closer on the Yankees at a fair price. 27 saves, nasty ratios, and he'll be pitching in meaningful games all year. This is how you build a saves foundation.
- **Lawrence Butler at \$11:** Despite the rough 2025, the 20/20 potential at 25 years old for \$11 is tantalizing. If the knee heals and he cuts the strikeouts even

slightly, you've got a top-40 bat for bench-player money.

7. Worst Picks / "What Were You Thinking?"

- **☐ Seiya Suzuki at \$51:** Your most expensive player is ranked #57 by CBS. Read that again. You are paying premium-elite money for a guy who strikes out 164 times, might platoon against lefties, and whose OBP dropped 40 points year-over-year. This is the financial equivalent of buying a boat — it seemed like a great idea at the time, and now you're just hemorrhaging money.
 - **☐ Zack Wheeler at \$44 with a bum shoulder:** Look, when he's healthy, he's worth every penny. But he's NOT healthy. He's 35. He's day-to-day. He threw 50 fewer innings in 2025 than 2024. You're betting \$44 — your second-highest salary — on a 35-year-old pitcher's shoulder holding up for a full season. That's not optimism, that's delusion with a fantasy budget.
 - **☐ Devin Williams at \$19:** Nineteen dollars for a reliever who posted a 4.79 ERA and negative WAR. NINETEEN DOLLARS. You could buy three JoJo Romeros for that price and get better production. The K rate is sexy, sure, but a 4.79 ERA closer is just a setup man who hasn't been told yet.
 - **☐ Seth Lugo at \$20:** A 36-year-old with a bad back coming off a 4.15 ERA season. The 2024 was magical. The 2025 was reality. You're paying \$20 to chase a ghost. At this salary, he needs to be a top-30 pitcher, and he's currently a top-60 pitcher with a heating pad on his lumbar.
 - **☐ Xander Bogaerts at \$19:** You have FOUR players with SS eligibility (Correa, Bogaerts, Clement, Lopez). You didn't need to spend \$19 on the oldest, most declining one. This is like buying a fourth TV for your house when two of them don't even have good picture anymore.
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8. Draft-Day Advice / Next Moves

1. **Monitor Wheeler's shoulder like a hawk.** Have a contingency plan. If he's going to miss extended time, you need to move fast. Target a mid-tier SP on waivers or via trade before the rest of the league catches on. You cannot afford to eat \$44 of dead salary.
2. **Try to trade Xander Bogaerts.** You have SS depth coming out of your ears. Shop Bogaerts to a SS-needy team while his "leadoff hitter" narrative still has some shine on it. Even getting 60 cents on the dollar frees up \$19 in salary and a roster spot.
3. **Trade one of your closers for a bat.** You have Bednar, Fairbanks, Williams, and Romero all capable of saves. That's overkill. Package Williams (\$19, name

value still high) with a bat for an upgrade. His K rate will make someone bite despite the ERA.

4. **Target stolen bases on waivers.** Your team is painfully slow outside of Bogaerts, Harris, Butler, and Lopez. Look for speed-first guys with low ownership — the type who steal 20+ bags even if they hit .230.
 5. **Keep an eye on Fairbanks' trade value.** If Miami starts selling at the deadline (they will), Fairbanks could get moved to a contender and either gain or lose the closer role. Be ready to pivot.
 6. **Agustin Ramirez needs a short leash.** If the 0-for-14 turns into 3-for-40, don't be sentimental. Catcher is a wasteland, but a \$5 catcher producing nothing is still nothing. Have replacement options scouted.
 7. **Pray for Michael King's health.** Seriously. Light a candle. Sacrifice a goat. Whatever it takes. If King pitches 180 innings, your rotation goes from "okay" to "legitimately scary." If he pitches 80 innings again, you're screwed.
 8. **Consider flipping Bellinger at peak value.** This is controversial, but hear me out: Bellinger at \$45 after a 661-point season is at maximum trade value. If you're not a true contender (and honestly, you might not be), selling high on your best asset could net you two solid pieces that improve your overall roster.
 9. **Don't sleep on Benintendi's Achilles.** Achilles injuries can linger and sap power/speed. If he's not right by mid-April, cut bait. At \$5 it's not a huge loss, but the roster spot matters.
 10. **Add a bench bat.** You have 21 players and zero bench flexibility for position players. One injury to a starter (beyond the ones you already have) and you're starting a reliever in a batting slot. That's not a strategy — that's a surrender.
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9. Final Grade

Grade: C+

This is a roster that has some genuinely excellent pieces (Bellinger, Ward, Horton, Bednar, the reliever depth) buried under a pile of overpaid veterans, injury concerns, and questionable allocation of resources. You spent \$133 on Suzuki, Wheeler, and Lugo — nearly 29% of your total salary on three players who are all either injured, declining, or both. Meanwhile, your best values are all \$5-\$12 picks that you stumbled into through smart bargain hunting.

The reliever corps is legitimately elite and could carry you in saves/holds categories. But the batting lineup has more holes than a screen door, the starting pitching is one Wheeler IL stint away from mediocrity, and you have zero bench depth for a 21-man roster.

If this team wins, it'll be because: Wheeler stays healthy and pitches like an ace, Cade Horton takes a leap into top-15 SP territory, Butler and Harris both take steps forward offensively, and the four-headed closer monster dominates the saves category so thoroughly that it papers over every other weakness.

If this team loses, it'll be because: Wheeler's shoulder gives out, Suzuki keeps striking out 164 times for \$51, Lugo's back makes him a \$20 paperweight, Devin Williams continues to be a \$19 disappointment, and the manager realizes too late that having four shortstops and no bench bats is not, in fact, a viable roster construction strategy.

Welcome to The Mendoza Line, South Side Fuck Ups. At least the name sets expectations appropriately.