

Deville Dandies

Unbiased Team Analysis

June 09, 2026

Overall Grade: **C**

□ Unbiased Analysis: Deville Dandies

The Mendoza Line League | 2026 Season

1. Overall Team Summary (Brutal Honesty Edition)

Quick Verdict: Pretender with a Dream Journal

The Deville Dandies are a team built on vibes, potential, and the fervent belief that every prospect will simultaneously break out in the same season. This is the fantasy baseball equivalent of buying a lottery ticket and already picking out the yacht. You've got a roster full of "what if" guys, a pitching staff held together by duct tape and prayers, and you're paying \$26 for a version of Luis Robert that hasn't existed since 2023.

One-liner roast: This team's name is "Deville Dandies" and honestly, that's the most put-together thing about it.

One-liner compliment: Nolan McLean at \$3 is the kind of pick that makes other managers lose sleep — genuinely outstanding value.

2. Roster Construction & Strategy

Let's break down what the architect of this fever dream was thinking:

- **What was prioritized:** Youth, upside, and starting pitching. This manager clearly walked into the draft room whispering "buy low, buy young" like a mantra. The batter core is loaded with 21-24 year olds, and the pitching staff is all starters, all the time.
- **What was ignored:** Oh, let me count the ways. **Saves. Completely. Zero closers. Zero relievers. Not even a setup man.** Also ignored: proven production, batting average stability, power from the corner infield, and having a catcher. Or a first baseman. Or a third baseman. You have NINE batters and

FIVE of them are eligible at either 2B or CF. That's not roster construction — that's a clerical error.

- **Where the roster is fragile:** Everywhere that isn't "second basemen" or "center fielders." You have three 2B-eligible players, three CF-eligible players, and absolutely nobody at C, 1B, 3B (India has 3B eligibility, to be fair), or true DH. Your pitching has zero saves, zero holds, and two guys (Meyer and Painter) who may or may not actually pitch meaningful innings. This roster is 14 players deep in a league with 31 keepers, which means you're going to the draft needing to fill roughly half your team. That better be one hell of a draft.

The salary allocation tells a story too: \$262 across 14 keepers, with \$26 on Luis Robert and \$28 on Jack Flaherty eating up over 20% of your budget on two guys trending in the wrong direction. Meanwhile, the cheap guys (McLean at \$3, Keaschall at \$3, Bengtson at \$3) are where the actual value lives. It's like you built a beautiful foundation and then put a money bonfire on top of it.

3. Strengths

- **Nolan McLean is a goddamn steal at \$3.** A 24-year-old with a 2.06 ERA, 10.7 K/9, and a 546.6-point projection? CBS ranks him #29 overall? For three dollars? This is the pick that justifies your existence as a fantasy manager. Everything else is negotiable.
- **Luke Keaschall at \$3 is elite value.** CBS rank #7, 74% owned, .302/.382/.445 slash in his age-22 season with speed (14 SB) and contact skills (29 K in 207 PA). He's the real deal, and you're paying less for him than most people pay for a reliever they'll drop in May.
- **Roman Anthony's ceiling is absurd.** He's 21, he slashed .292/.396/.463 as a rookie, and he's projected for 482 points. At \$5, this is a cornerstone keeper. The kid had a 3.14 WAR in 71 games. If he plays a full season, we're talking top-20 overall player.
- **Ryan Pepiot is a legitimate SP2 at a bargain price.** 167 K in 167.2 IP, 3.86 ERA, projected for 517.8 points at \$11. He's boring. He's effective. He's exactly what this team needs more of.
- **Stolen base potential is sneaky good.** Robert (33 SB in 2025), Keaschall (14), Swanson (20), and Crews (17) give you legitimate speed across the roster. If everyone's healthy — which is a big "if" with this crew — you could dominate the SB category.
- **Age profile means this team could be scary in 2-3 years.** Anthony (21), Keaschall (23), Crews (24), McLean (24), Bengtson (23), Matthews (23) — this is a

prospect-heavy core that could all peak simultaneously. If you're playing the long game, the bones are here.

4. Weaknesses / Red Flags

- **ZERO closers. ZERO relievers. ZERO saves.** I cannot stress this enough. In any format that counts saves or holds, you are punting an entire category with your keeper roster. You'll need to address this aggressively in the draft, and good closers don't come cheap. This isn't a strategy — it's an oversight.
- **Positional coverage is a catastrophe.** No catcher. No first baseman. No dedicated third baseman. You have three second basemen and three center fielders. Your draft isn't just important — it's a rescue mission.
- **Luis Robert at \$26 is a sunk cost fallacy in human form.** Back-to-back seasons of .222-.224 batting average, an OPS that's cratered from .857 (2023) to .661 (2025). He's 28, so you can't even blame youth. The speed is still there (33 SB), but you're paying top-dollar for a guy who hits like a backup catcher. His "eased into action" spring headline doesn't exactly scream bounce-back.
- **Jack Flaherty at \$28 is your most expensive player and he stinks right now.** A 4.64 ERA, 8-15 record, and 1.28 WHIP in 2025 — a massive regression from his 2024 resurgence (599.5 FPTS). He's 30, injury-prone historically, and you're paying him like an ace. The projection system (485.1) is being generous.
- **Jonathan India at \$20 is highway robbery — and YOU'RE the victim.** A .233 BA, 9 HR, 0 SB season in 2025 for a guy you're paying \$20? His projected 285.2 points would make him a below-average starter in most formats. He has multi-position eligibility, which is nice, but you're paying \$20 for a utility player.
- **Andrew Painter is still essentially a fantasy ghost.** No 2025 stats. A 142.9-point projection that screams "innings limit" or "mid-season call-up." He's likely making the Opening Day rotation per reports, but at 22 years old with his injury history, you're hoping for 120 innings and praying for 150. At \$6 it's a reasonable flier, but don't count on him as a rotation anchor.
- **Max Meyer on the Marlins is a special kind of hell.** A 4.73 ERA in 64.2 IP, currently day-to-day with a hip issue, pitching for the worst team in baseball. His 326.2-point projection assumes health and a rotation spot that Miami may not even bother filling if they're 30 games out by June. At \$11, this is an overpay for a prayer.
- **Dylan Crews hasn't figured it out yet.** A .208 BA across 85 games in 2025, a .631 OPS, and a 322.2-point projection that ranks him at CBS #68. He's 24 and the pedigree is there, but at \$15, you're paying for the draft pick, not the production. His early 2026 spring line (.111/.200/.111) is... not encouraging.

5. Player-by-Player Takes

BATTERS

Luke Keaschall (2B) — MIN | \$3

Role/Status: Starting 2B for the Twins. Day-to-day with a thumb issue, but was in the spring lineup recently. CBS ranks him #7 overall, which is bonkers for a \$3 keeper.

Value Assessment: ELITE VALUE

A 23-year-old who hit .302 with a .827 OPS and 14 steals in his first 49 games? And he barely strikes out (29 K in 207 PA)? This is the kind of player other managers will offer you trades for all season. Don't you dare trade him.

Risk factors: The thumb injury is worth monitoring. Only 49 games of MLB track record. Could face a sophomore slump.

□ This pick is filthy. The kind of value that makes league-mates question their life choices.

Roman Anthony (RF) — BOS | \$5

Role/Status: Everyday outfielder for the Red Sox. Recently avoided injury in an outfield collision, so he's already dodging bullets like Neo.

Value Assessment: ELITE UPSIDE / SOLID FLOOR

At 21, he posted a .292/.396/.463 line with a 3.14 WAR in just 71 games. The plate discipline (40 BB vs 84 K) is advanced for his age. The projection of 482 points at \$5 is the kind of surplus value that wins leagues.

Risk factors: Strikeout rate is a bit high (27.7%). Only 71 games of experience. The power (8 HR) needs to develop for him to reach superstar status. Also, he plays for the Red Sox, so he'll be in approximately 400 trade rumors by July.

He's 21 and already better than half the veterans on this roster. Let that sink in.

Luis Robert (CF) — NYM | \$26

Role/Status: Starting CF for the Mets. Being "eased into action" this spring, which is Luis Robert's permanent state of being.

Value Assessment: OVERPRICED LANDMINE

Let's be real: the Luis Robert you're paying \$26 for died in 2023. That guy hit .264 with 38 homers and a .857 OPS. The Luis Robert you actually have has posted

back-to-back seasons of .222-.224 batting averages with OPS numbers in the .650s. His ISO has dropped from .278 to .141. He's still fast (33 SB), but he's essentially a one-category contributor at a premium price.

Risk factors: Injury history longer than a CVS receipt. Two consecutive years of decline. The projection system (508.2) is being wildly optimistic based on the 2023 peak that may never return.

You're paying Rolls-Royce prices for a car that's been in the shop more than on the road. At least he can still run — to the IL.

Dylan Crews (RF) — WAS | \$15

Role/Status: Starting OF for the Nationals. Rejoined the spring lineup recently.

Value Assessment: PROSPECT TAX / HOLD YOUR NOSE

The #2 overall pick in the 2023 draft has been... underwhelming. A .208 BA and .631 OPS across 85 games in 2025 is not what you want to see from a guy at \$15. The speed (17 SB) and youth (24) are the saving graces, but the hit tool has not translated yet.

Risk factors: The batting average could torpedo your team. Only 65% owned, meaning the market isn't exactly clamoring for him. Washington's lineup won't provide much protection.

Paying \$15 for a .208 hitter because he was good in college is peak fantasy delusion. But hey, he's only 24 — there's still time for him to become the player you already paid for.

Carson Benge (CF) — NYM | \$3

Role/Status: Prospect with the Mets. No MLB stats yet. "Shines at plate Wednesday" in spring training, which is the baseball equivalent of your kid getting a participation trophy.

Value Assessment: LOTTERY TICKET

A 334.4-point projection for a guy with zero MLB stats is purely speculative. At 36% owned, the fantasy community is cautiously interested but not sold. At \$3, the price is right for a stash.

Risk factors: No MLB track record whatsoever. May not even make the Opening Day roster. The Mets outfield is crowded (Robert, Benge, and others competing for time).

You and the Mets apparently have the same outfield strategy: just keep collecting center fielders until one of them works out.

Brice Matthews (2B) — HOU | \$2

Role/Status: Young prospect with the Astros. Having a "strong start to spring." His 2025 MLB cameo was... 13 games of .167 hitting with 20 strikeouts in 42 at-bats. Yikes.

Value Assessment: DEEP STASH / STREAMER BAIT

The raw power flashed (4 HR in 42 AB, .286 ISO) but the contact was nonexistent (.167 BA, .100 BB/K ratio). At 16% owned, this is a guy most leagues don't even roster. The 160.2-point projection suggests he won't be a regular contributor.

Risk factors: May not have a clear path to everyday playing time in Houston. Strikeout rate is terrifying. This is your third 2B-eligible player, which is... a choice.

You drafted three second basemen. THREE. Did you think there was a bonus for cornering the market on the least sexy position in baseball?

Harrison Bader (CF) — SF | \$7

Role/Status: Starting OF for the Giants. Recent news says he's "paused hitting," which is never what you want to hear in March.

Value Assessment: SOLID BUT DECLINING

Bader actually had a quietly nice 2025 — .277 BA, 17 HR, 11 SB, 4.16 WAR across 146 games. But he's 31, the projection (286.4) expects significant regression, and he's only 17% owned. The "pauses hitting" headline is concerning.

Risk factors: Age 31 with declining projections. Only 17% owned suggests the market sees him as a fringe starter. History of injuries. At \$7, he's not egregiously overpriced, but he's your most "meh" keeper.

Harrison Bader is the human equivalent of ordering the chicken at a steakhouse. Fine. Acceptable. Nobody's excited about it.

Jonathan India (2B) — KC | \$20

Role/Status: Multi-position eligible (2B/3B/LF/DH) for the Royals. That versatility is genuinely useful.

Value Assessment: MASSIVE OVERPAY

Let's do some math. India's 2025: .233 BA, 9 HR, 0 SB, 0.67 OPS. His projection: 285.2 points. You're paying \$20. Keaschall is projected for 409.6 points at \$3. You are paying nearly seven times more for a player projected to score 30% fewer points. The multi-position eligibility is nice, but it doesn't justify this contract.

Risk factors: Coming off a career-worst season. Zero stolen bases and 4 caught stealing means he's actively hurting you in the speed category. The power

evaporated (9 HR after 15 in 2024).

\$20 for Jonathan India is like paying full price for a gym membership you use twice. Except the gym also got worse.

Dansby Swanson (SS) — CHC | \$11

Role/Status: Starting SS for the Cubs. Popped his first spring homer. Reliable, durable, and the closest thing this roster has to a "boring but good" player.

Value Assessment: SOLID / FAIR VALUE

Swanson played 159 games in 2025, hit 24 HR with 20 SB, and posted a 4.48 WAR. At \$11, that's perfectly reasonable. He's your best hitter by actual production, which says something about this roster. The projection (392 points) suggests slight regression at age 32, but he's still a top-10 SS.

Risk factors: Age 32 means the decline phase is knocking. The .244 BA and .300 OBP aren't inspiring. But 24/20 power-speed is legitimate.

Dansby Swanson: the only adult on this roster. The responsible one at the frat party making sure nobody drives home drunk.

PITCHERS

Max Meyer (SP) — MIA | \$11

Role/Status: Starting pitcher for the Marlins. Day-to-day with a hip issue. "Sharp in spring debut" is nice, but this is a Marlins pitcher — they're always one fire sale away from being optioned to Jupiter.

Value Assessment: RISKY OVERPAY

A 4.73 ERA in 64.2 IP in 2025 with a 1.42 WHIP. He only made 12 starts. The projection (326.2) assumes health and a rotation spot, neither of which is guaranteed on this dumpster fire of a franchise. At \$11, you're paying starter money for a guy who might give you 100 innings on a team that won't give him wins.

Risk factors: Hip injury (current). Marlins are tanking. Only 29% owned. History of arm injuries. This is a \$5 player at an \$11 price tag.

Drafting a Marlins pitcher and expecting production is like ordering sushi at a gas station and expecting it to be fresh.

Ryan Pepiot (SP) — TB | \$11

Role/Status: Ace of the Rays staff (by default, because it's the Rays). Shaky in his Grapefruit League debut but that means nothing.

Value Assessment: SOLID / GREAT VALUE

Pepiot put up 167 K in 167.2 IP with a 3.86 ERA in 2025. He made 31 starts — durability! The 517.8-point projection makes him your second-best pitcher behind McLean. At \$11, this is a legitimate SP2 at an SP4 price.

Risk factors: Pitching for Tampa means limited win potential. The walk rate (61 BB) is a bit high. But the Ks are real and the ratios are solid.

Pepiot is the pitcher equivalent of a Honda Civic: not flashy, won't break down, gets the job done, and you won't regret the purchase.

Nolan McLean (SP) — NYM | \$3

Role/Status: Starting pitcher for the Mets. Recently moved past "vertigo-like symptoms," which is a phrase that should concern you more than it apparently does. CBS ranks him #29 overall.

Value Assessment: ELITE STEAL / LEAGUE-WINNING VALUE

A 2.06 ERA, 10.7 K/9, and 3.56 K/BB in 48 innings as a 23-year-old? Projected for 546.6 points — the highest on your entire roster? For THREE DOLLARS? This is the kind of value that makes commissioners check for collusion. He's 76% owned and ranked #29 for a reason.

Risk factors: Only 8 starts / 48 IP of track record. The vertigo thing is weird and worth monitoring. Young pitchers are inherently volatile. But the stuff is electric.

If this kid stays healthy, you basically stole a Porsche for the price of a Happy Meal. This is the pick that justifies every other questionable decision you made.

Jack Flaherty (SP) — DET | \$28

Role/Status: Starting pitcher for the Tigers. Your most expensive player. Let that sink in.

Value Assessment: OVERPAID / DECLINING

Flaherty's 2025 was a disaster: 4.64 ERA, 8-15 record, 1.28 WHIP. Yes, the strikeouts were there (188 in 161 IP, 10.5 K/9), but the results were ugly. He went from 599.5 FPTS in 2024 to 332.9 in 2025 — a 45% drop. At \$28, he's your priciest keeper, and the projection (485.1) is banking on a bounceback that his age (30) and recent trajectory don't support.

Risk factors: Most expensive player on the roster. Pitching for a bad Tigers team (limited wins). Significant year-over-year decline. Injury history throughout his career.

You're paying \$28 for Jack Flaherty. TWENTY-EIGHT DOLLARS. That's more than some teams pay for their entire pitching staff. Meanwhile, McLean is projected higher at \$3. This is the financial equivalent of lighting money on fire to stay warm.

Andrew Painter (SP) — PHI | \$6

Role/Status: Likely to make the Phillies' Opening Day rotation per reports. Has no MLB stats from 2025 (missed the season). Threw 2 scoreless innings in spring with 1 K.

Value Assessment: HIGH-UPSIDE LOTTERY TICKET

Painter was one of the most hyped pitching prospects in baseball before injuries derailed him. At 22, the ceiling is enormous — he's 6'7" with plus stuff. But the projection (142.9 points) tells you the systems expect limited innings, likely an innings cap or mid-season shutdown.

Risk factors: Essentially zero MLB track record. Coming off a lost season. Innings limit almost certain. At \$6, the price is palatable for the upside, but don't pencil him in for 30 starts.

Andrew Painter is the fantasy equivalent of a "FRAGILE — Handle With Care" sticker on a box full of dynamite. The upside is explosive. So is the downside.

6. Best Picks / Steals

- **☐ Nolan McLean at \$3:** This is the steal of the draft. A projected 546.6 points — the highest on your roster — for the league minimum. If he stays healthy, this alone could carry your pitching staff. CBS #29 overall. Absolutely disgusting value.
 - **☐ Luke Keaschall at \$3:** CBS rank #7 (!!) for \$3. A 23-year-old who hit .302 with speed and contact skills. This is the kind of keeper that makes dynasty leagues worth playing.
 - **☐ Roman Anthony at \$5:** A 21-year-old with a .859 OPS in his debut, projected for 482 points. At \$5, this is a franchise cornerstone. The upside is top-10 overall player.
 - **☐ Ryan Pepiot at \$11:** A boring, reliable SP2 who throws 167 innings and strikes out a batter per frame. Exactly the kind of pitcher you build around. Fair price, safe floor.
 - **☐ Dansby Swanson at \$11:** 24 HR, 20 SB, 159 games played. At \$11 for a 4.48-WAR shortstop, this is solid, dependable value. He's the rock of this roster.
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7. Worst Picks / "What Were You Thinking?"

- **☐ Jack Flaherty at \$28:** Your most expensive player is coming off a 4.64 ERA season, is 30 years old, pitches for a bad team, and is projected for fewer points than a guy you're paying \$3 for (McLean). This is the kind of contract that haunts you in your sleep. You are paying premium for a mid-rotation arm on a tanking team. Absolutely brutal allocation.
 - **☐ Luis Robert at \$26:** Two consecutive years of decline. A .222 hitter with a .661 OPS. You're paying \$26 for stolen bases and memories of 2023. The projection system is huffing copium at 508.2 points — his actual production has been 274 and 168 the last two years. This contract is an anchor dragging your salary cap to the bottom of the ocean.
 - **☐ Jonathan India at \$20:** A .233 BA, 9 HR, 0 SB season. Projected for 285.2 points — barely above replacement level. At \$20, this is the worst dollar-per-point value on your roster by a country mile. You could get 80% of his production off waivers for free.
 - **☐ Max Meyer at \$11:** Day-to-day with a hip injury, pitching for the worst team in baseball, coming off a 4.73 ERA in limited innings. At \$11, you're overpaying for hope. The 29% ownership tells you everything — three-quarters of fantasy managers don't even want him for free.
 - **☐ The Three Second Basemen Strategy:** Keaschall, India, and Matthews are all 2B-eligible. You're spending \$25 combined on three players at the same position while having ZERO catchers, ZERO first basemen, and ZERO dedicated third basemen. This isn't roster construction — it's hoarding.
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8. Draft-Day Advice / Next Moves

1. **Get a damn closer. Or two. Or three.** You have literally zero saves on this roster. Target elite closers early in the draft — you cannot afford to punt this category entirely. If someone like Emmanuel Clase, Ryan Helsley, or Kenley Jansen falls, grab them immediately.
2. **Draft a catcher.** You don't have one. This is not optional. Adley Rutschman, William Contreras, or even a mid-tier option like Salvador Perez needs to be on your radar.
3. **Address 1B and 3B immediately.** You have zero coverage at two corner infield spots. These are positions where power lives. Target guys like Matt Olson, Pete Alonso, or Austin Riley to shore up your HR/RBI production.
4. **Seriously consider trading Jonathan India.** His multi-position eligibility has value to someone, and you need to recoup anything you can from that \$20

albatross. Package him in a deal for a closer or a corner bat. Even getting 50 cents on the dollar is better than rostering him at this price.

5. **Explore trading Luis Robert.** The name still carries weight. Some manager in your league still believes in the 2023 version. Sell the dream. Move him for a proven bat at a position of need (1B, 3B, C) and free up that \$26.
6. **Drop or trade Brice Matthews.** At 16% owned with a 160.2-point projection, he's not contributing this year. You have Keaschall at 2B already. Use that roster spot on someone who will actually play.
7. **Monitor Andrew Painter's innings closely.** Have a replacement SP ready for when the Phillies inevitably shut him down in August. Target a mid-season pitching add in advance.
8. **Handcuff your closers.** Since you're starting from zero in the saves department, draft the primary closer AND his handcuff where possible. Closer roles are volatile — protect your investment.
9. **Target batting average help in the draft.** Between Robert (.222), Crews (.208), India (.233), and Matthews (.167), your batting average is going to be a war crime. Draft high-average bats to balance this out — think Luis Arraez, Steven Kwan, or Yandy Díaz types.
10. **Consider whether Harrison Bader is worth keeping.** At \$7 with a 286.4-point projection and only 17% ownership, he might be better served as a draft pick you use on a position of need. The "pauses hitting" headline isn't reassuring. He's your most cuttable keeper.

9. Final Grade

Grade: C

This roster has three or four genuinely excellent keeper values (McLean, Keaschall, Anthony, Pepiot) that any manager would kill for. But those gems are buried under a mountain of overpaid declining veterans (Flaherty, Robert, India), prospect prayers (Crews, Bengie, Matthews, Painter), positional holes you could drive a truck through, and a complete absence of relief pitching. The salary allocation is wildly inefficient — you're spending \$74 on Flaherty, Robert, and India combined, and getting less projected production than McLean, Keaschall, and Anthony at \$11 combined. That's not a rounding error; that's malpractice.

The foundation for a future contender exists. The present-day roster is a mess.

If this team wins, it'll be because... McLean becomes an ace, Anthony breaks out into a superstar, Keaschall is the real deal, Luis Robert remembers he's Luis

Robert, and the manager absolutely nails the draft to fill the gaping holes at C, 1B, 3B, and closer. Basically, everything has to go right simultaneously.

If this team loses, it'll be because... you're paying \$74 for three underperformers, you have zero saves, half your roster is made up of prospects who haven't proven anything yet, and you went into the season with three second basemen and no catcher — which is the kind of roster construction that gets you featured on a fantasy baseball true crime podcast.