

Diamonds Aren't For Devers

Unbiased Team Analysis

June 09, 2026

Overall Grade: **B**

□ Unbiased Analysis: Diamonds Aren't For Devers □

The Mendoza Line League

1. Overall Team Summary (Brutal Honesty Edition)

Quick Verdict: Contender with a limp. This team has a legitimate top-end core that could win any week — Ohtani, Crochet, Fried, Devers, Betts — but the manager built it like someone who maxed out three credit cards on a Porsche and then couldn't afford tires. The roster is top-heavy, injury-prone, and has some deeply questionable depth pieces that scream "I'll figure it out later." Later is now, friend.

One-liner roast: You named your team "Diamonds Aren't For Devers" and then paid the man \$46 to be your second-best hitter — so clearly, diamonds *are* for Devers, and you're just in denial.

One-liner compliment: Locking up Ohtani, Crochet, and Chapman at those salaries is the kind of ruthless efficiency that makes other managers cry into their waiver wire.

2. Roster Construction & Strategy

What the manager prioritized: Star power. Raw, unapologetic star power. This roster screams "I'm going to win the categories I win by a mile and lose the ones I lose by a mile." There's a clear emphasis on elite starting pitching (Crochet, Fried, Bradish's upside), power hitting (Ohtani, Devers, Suarez combined for 139 homers in 2025), and saves (Chapman, Megill, Diaz — three legit closers).

What they ignored:

- **Batting average:** Oneil Cruz hit .200 in 2025. Varsho's a career .220 hitter. Suarez struck out 196 times. This lineup will drag your team average into a

ditch and leave it there.

- **Stolen bases:** Outside of Cruz (38 SB) and Ohtani (20), this team runs like it's wearing cement shoes. Will Smith stole 2 bags. Devers stole 1. Riley stole 2. The ghost of speed past.
- **Roster depth:** 19 players, several of whom are injured or borderline unrosterable. There's no bench cushion here. One more injury and you're starting a guy from the parking lot.

Where the roster is fragile:

- Three players currently dealing with injuries (Torres - groin, Detmers - elbow, Riley - abdomen)
 - Devers' news literally says he's "halted all activity" — for a guy at \$46, that's a five-alarm fire
 - Mookie Betts is 33, coming off a significant production decline (926 FPTS in 2023 → 550 in 2025), and is your most expensive position player at \$68
 - Aroldis Chapman is 38 years old. THIRTY-EIGHT. His arm could detach at any moment like a space shuttle booster.
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3. Strengths

- **Ohtani is a cheat code:** 942 FPTS in 2025, projected for 868.6 in 2026, and he might pitch again. At \$86 he's expensive, but he's literally the #2 ranked player on CBS. You don't apologize for owning the best player in fantasy baseball.
- **Starting pitching is genuinely elite:** Crochet (895.3 FPTS, 2.59 ERA, 255 K) and Fried (745.7 FPTS, 2.86 ERA, 19 wins) form one of the best 1-2 punches in any league. Williams is a solid SP3, and Bradish has ace upside if healthy (2.53 ERA in limited 2025 action, 13.2 K/9).
- **Closer depth is excellent:** Chapman (32 saves, 1.17 ERA — yes, at age 37), Megill (30 saves), and Diaz give you three potential closers. That's rare and valuable. Saves are a scarce commodity and you're hoarding them like toilet paper in March 2020.
- **Suarez at \$6 is highway robbery:** 49 homers and 118 RBI in 2025 for six bucks. Sure, he struck out 196 times and hit .228, but that's 49 goddamn home runs. At that salary, he could hit .180 and still be worth it.
- **Value keepers everywhere:** Cruz at \$13, Varsho at \$3, Suarez at \$6, Torres at \$6, Lile at \$4 — the bottom of this roster is built on surplus value that gives you financial flexibility.
- **Raw power is absurd:** Ohtani (55 HR), Suarez (49), Devers (35), Cruz (20), Varsho (20), Betts (20), Will Smith (17). That's potentially 216+ homers from

seven guys. You will bury people in the HR and RBI categories.

4. Weaknesses / Red Flags

- **Devers has "halted all activity":** Your \$46 keeper, the man whose name is literally in your team name, is shut down heading into the season. His 2026 projection (612.4) is basically flat from 2025, but that assumes he's, you know, *playing baseball*. This is a massive red flag that could crater your season before it starts.
- **Mookie Betts is aging out of his prime at \$68:** From 926 FPTS in 2023 to 550 in 2025. His ISO dropped from .272 to .148. His OPS went from .987 to .732. He's still good, but you're paying \$68 for a player trending toward "solid" rather than "elite." That's a brutal salary anchor.
- **Austin Riley can't stay on the field:** 102 games in 2025, 110 in 2024. Currently day-to-day with an abdomen issue. You're paying \$26 for a guy projected at 471 FPTS who has produced 248.8 and 333.2 the last two years. That's paying for 2023 Riley and getting 2025 Riley.
- **Kyle Bradish is a beautiful theory, not a proven asset:** 137.9 FPTS in 2025 (6 starts), 156.6 in 2024 (8 starts). He's pitched 71.1 innings over two seasons combined. You're paying \$11 for a guy who hasn't proven he can stay on a mound for more than a month. His 2023 was gorgeous (630.6 FPTS), but that was three years ago.
- **Oneil Cruz is a strikeout machine with a .200 batting average:** 174 strikeouts in 471 at-bats. A .200 average. A .298 OBP. Yes, the power-speed combo (20 HR, 38 SB) is tantalizing, but his 2025 was genuinely terrible outside of the steals. His 2026 projection of 545 FPTS requires a massive leap of faith from his actual 314.1 in 2025.
- **Batting average is going to be a weekly nightmare:** Cruz (.200), Suarez (.228), Varsho (.238), Riley (.260 in limited time) — half your lineup is a batting average black hole. You'll need Smith, Devers, and Lile to carry the load, and Devers isn't even active right now.
- **Reid Detmers is... why?** Day-to-day with an elbow issue (the two scariest words for a pitcher), 18% owned, posted a 3.96 ERA as a reliever in 2025 after a catastrophic 6.70 ERA as a starter in 2024. This is a roster spot being lit on fire.
- **Adrian Morejon at 17% ownership is a ticking clock:** Excellent 2025 (2.08 ERA, 0.90 WHIP), but he's a setup man, not a closer. Only 3 saves. His projected drop to 330.9 FPTS suggests regression, and at 17% ownership, other managers clearly aren't buying what he's selling. If he loses his role, he's a waiver wire casualty.

5. Player-by-Player Takes

BATTERS

Shohei Ohtani (DH) — LAD | \$86

Role/Status: The undisputed #1 overall fantasy asset. DH with potential SP eligibility. May be limited as a pitcher early on per recent news, which is the only thing keeping him from being literally unfair.

Value Assessment: ELITE. 942 FPTS in 2025. 55 homers. 20 steals. An OPS over 1.000. He's the sun and your roster orbits around him.

Risk Factors: Age 31, slight production dip projected (868.6 from 942), and the pitching workload question. If he pitches even 100 innings, he could obliterate his projection.

□ *"You spent \$86 on one player and it's still the best value on your roster. That's how good this man is."*

Rafael Devers (1B/DH) — SF | \$46

Role/Status: Now a Giant, which means he traded Fenway's short right field porch for Oracle Park's cavernous outfield. And he's halted all activity. Cool. Cool cool cool.

Value Assessment: Solid when healthy, but the park change and the shutdown are concerning. 35 HR, 109 RBI, .252 AVG in 2025 — reliable but not the MVP-caliber guy you're paying \$46 for.

Risk Factors: The "halted all activity" headline is genuinely alarming heading into the season. Oracle Park could suppress his power numbers. His K rate (192 in 607 AB) has been climbing.

□ *"Named your whole team after this guy and he can't even do spring training. Poetry."*

Mookie Betts (SS) — LAD | \$68

Role/Status: Still elite defensively, still a good fantasy player, but no longer the 8+ WAR monster of 2023. Nearing spring debut per news, so at least he's alive.

Value Assessment: Solid but overpaid. 550 FPTS is fine, but at \$68 you need more than fine. His power cratered (39 HR in '23 → 20 in '25), his SLG dropped 170 points, and his ISO fell off a cliff.

Risk Factors: Age 33, declining power, \$68 salary eating your budget alive. Projected at 525.8 — a further decline.

□ *"\$68 for a guy whose best days are in the rearview mirror. You're paying for the name on the jersey, not the numbers on the stat sheet."*

Will Smith (C) — LAD | \$24

Role/Status: Starting catcher for the Dodgers. Swatted his first spring homer. Consistent as hell.

Value Assessment: Solid. A top-3 fantasy catcher. His 2025 was actually his best season (.296 AVG, .901 OPS, 4.46 WAR). At the catcher wasteland, \$24 for this production is perfectly reasonable.

Risk Factors: Catcher aging curve is ugly, and he's 30. Projected for 456.2 FPTS (up from 420.5), which feels optimistic but not crazy. Durability has been fine (110 games in '25 is solid for a catcher).

□ *"The most boring, reliable player on your roster. You'll never get excited about Will Smith, but you'll never be mad either. He's the Honda Civic of fantasy catchers."*

Eugenio Suarez (3B) — CIN | \$6

Role/Status: Full-time third baseman in Cincinnati. 159 games in 2025. The man is durable as a cinder block and about as graceful at the plate.

Value Assessment: Solid value play. 49 HR and 118 RBI at \$6? That's obscene value. Yes, he hit .228 with 196 strikeouts, but in a points league, those counting stats carry massive weight.

Risk Factors: Age 34, projection drops sharply to 397.6 FPTS (from 591.9). That's a 33% decline. The 49-homer season could be a career outlier — he hit 22 and 30 the two years before. Regression is coming, and it might come hard.

□ *"49 homers at \$6 is like finding a Rolex at a yard sale. The question is whether it's real or if it stops working in June."*

Oneil Cruz (CF) — PIT | \$13

Role/Status: Everyday CF for Pittsburgh. Having a strong spring per reports. The tools are absurd — 6'7", power, speed, the whole package.

Value Assessment: High-upside gamble. The 2026 projection (545 FPTS) is nearly double his 2025 actual (314.1). That's a LOT of projected improvement. The 38 steals are legit, but the .200 batting average is a fantasy anchor.

Risk Factors: 174 strikeouts, .200 AVG, .298 OBP. He's basically Adam Dunn with wheels. If the batting average stays in the .200 range, the projected leap won't materialize. The gap between his ceiling and floor is the Grand Canyon.

□ *"Oneil Cruz is the fantasy equivalent of dating someone who's really hot but also might burn your house down. The upside is intoxicating. The .200 average is the restraining order."*

Gleyber Torres (2B/DH) — DET | \$6

Role/Status: Second baseman in Detroit. Currently day-to-day with a groin injury. Because of course he is.

Value Assessment: Streamer territory. 450.9 FPTS in 2025 was fine, but the projection drops to 371.4. He's a .256 hitter with 16 homers and 4 steals. That's replacement-level production at a premium position. At \$6 the salary is fine, but the production is meh.

Risk Factors: Groin injury, declining power (25 HR in '23 → 15 in '24 → 16 in '25), playing in Detroit's pitcher-friendly park. He's trending toward "guy you bench when you have a better option."

□ *"Gleyber Torres: the human embodiment of 'I guess.' At \$6, you're not losing sleep. But you're also not winning weeks."*

Daulton Varsho (CF) — TOR | \$3

Role/Status: Everyday outfielder for Toronto. Started spring with a homer. Only played 71 games in 2025 (injury?), but the power was real — 20 HR in 248 AB.

Value Assessment: Solid sleeper. At \$3, this is absurd value if he stays healthy. His 2025 rate stats were excellent (.310 ISO, 20 HR in 71 games = 40+ HR pace). Projected for 531.4 FPTS, which would be a career high.

Risk Factors: Only played 71 games in 2025. The .238 AVG and .220 walk-to-K ratio are ugly. He's a boom-or-bust bat who could crater your average while hitting 30+ homers. Classic Varsho.

□ *"\$3 for a guy projected at 531 FPTS is the kind of value that makes other managers file a grievance. If he plays 140+ games, this is a league-winning steal."*

Daylen Lile (LF/RF/DH) — WAS | \$4

Role/Status: 23-year-old prospect getting everyday at-bats in Washington. 91 games in 2025 with a .299 AVG and 11 triples (!). Only 35% owned.

Value Assessment: Intriguing upside play. The batting average is real (.299), the speed is there (11 triples, 8 SB), and the power is developing (9 HR). At \$4, the

risk is minimal and the ceiling is exciting.

Risk Factors: Small sample (91 games), low walk rate (21 BB in 351 PA), high CS rate (6 caught in 14 attempts — yikes), and 35% ownership means he could be waiver bait if he slumps. The projection of 363.6 FPTS is modest.

□ *"The one prospect bet on this roster, and honestly? Not bad. A 23-year-old hitting .299 with triples power at \$4 is the kind of pick that looks genius in September or invisible in June."*

Austin Riley (3B) — ATL | \$26

Role/Status: Third baseman for Atlanta. Day-to-day with an abdomen injury. Launched first spring homer, so he's at least swinging.

Value Assessment: Landmine. Look, 2023 Riley (655.5 FPTS, 37 HR, .281 AVG) was a monster. But 2024 Riley (333.2 FPTS) and 2025 Riley (248.8 FPTS) have been a slow-motion car crash. You're paying \$26 for a guy who hasn't been worth \$26 in two years.

Risk Factors: Abdomen injury, missed significant time in both 2024 and 2025, declining production across the board. The 2026 projection of 471.2 requires him to play 140+ games, which he hasn't done since 2023.

□ *"\$26 for a guy who's given you 248 and 333 fantasy points the last two years. That's not a keeper — that's a hostage situation."*

PITCHERS

Garrett Crochet (SP) — BOS | \$22

Role/Status: Ace. Full stop. Made his spring debut. 32 starts, 205.1 IP, 255 K in 2025. The breakout was real and spectacular.

Value Assessment: ELITE. A 2.59 ERA with 255 strikeouts and a 5.54 K/BB ratio? At \$22? This is the best value on your entire roster, and yes, that includes Ohtani. CBS ranks him #2 among pitchers.

Risk Factors: The projection drops to 617.9 from 895.3, which is a massive haircut. He threw 205 innings after only throwing 146 the year before — workload concerns are legitimate. He's only 26, but that left arm has been pushed hard.

□ *"Garrett Crochet at \$22 is the kind of value that should be illegal. If he repeats even 80% of 2025, you're laughing all the way to the championship."*

Max Fried (SP) — NYY | \$35

Role/Status: Ace for the Yankees. Covered three frames in his spring debut. 19 wins, 2.86 ERA, 189 K in 2025 — a career year by a wide margin.

Value Assessment: Elite. Consistent, durable (32 starts), and pitching for a team that will give him run support. At \$35, he's fairly priced for a top-10 SP.

Risk Factors: Age 32, projection drops to 620.8 (from 745.7). His 2023 was limited to 14 starts due to injury. There's always a health question with Fried, even when he's rolling.

☐☐ "Max Fried pitching for the Yankees is like giving a Michelin-star chef the best ingredients. 19 wins isn't an accident — it's what happens when your offense scores 5+ runs every night."

Gavin Williams (SP) — CLE | \$9

Role/Status: Mid-rotation starter for Cleveland. Settled in after a leadoff HR in spring. 31 starts in 2025 — finally healthy after a brutal 2024 (16 starts, 4.86 ERA).

Value Assessment: Solid mid-range SP. 3.06 ERA, 173 K in 167.2 IP is perfectly cromulent. At \$9, you're getting good value for a back-end SP2/SP3.

Risk Factors: The walk rate is concerning (83 BB in 167.2 IP = 4.45 BB/9). The 2024 disaster shows the floor is very real. Projected for 502.9 FPTS, which is a slight decline but reasonable.

☐ "Gavin Williams is the pitcher equivalent of ordering the chicken at a steakhouse. It's fine. It's always fine. You just wish it was steak."

Kyle Bradish (SP) — BAL | \$11

Role/Status: Starter for Baltimore. Mixed results in spring debut. The elephant in the room: he's thrown 71.1 innings over the last two seasons combined. That's not a red flag — it's a red bonfire.

Value Assessment: High-upside gamble. When he pitches, he's electric (13.2 K/9 in 2025, 12.1 K/9 in 2024, 2.83 ERA in 2023). The problem is the "when he pitches" part.

Risk Factors: Massive durability concerns. Has made 14 combined starts in two years. Projected for 457.5 FPTS, which requires 25+ starts — something he hasn't done since 2023. You're betting on health, and the house always wins that bet.

☐ "Kyle Bradish is the fantasy equivalent of that restaurant that's amazing but only open on alternate Tuesdays. When he's there, it's incredible. He's just never there."

Aroldis Chapman (RP) — BOS | \$6

Role/Status: Closer for the Red Sox. Had an absolutely absurd 2025: 1.17 ERA, 0.70 WHIP, 32 saves, 12.5 K/9. At age 37. What the actual hell.

Value Assessment: Elite closer value. CBS ranks him #3 overall. 548.8 FPTS from a reliever at \$6 is the kind of value that breaks league economies. The 2025 season was legitimately one of the best closer seasons in recent memory.

Risk Factors: HE'S 38 YEARS OLD. The projection drops to 456.3 FPTS, and honestly, any projection for a 38-year-old reliever should come with an asterisk the size of Texas. His 2024 was mediocre (3.79 ERA). The 2025 could easily be a mirage.

□ *"Aroldis Chapman at 38 posting a 1.17 ERA is proof that either PEDs work, he sold his soul, or the simulation is glitching. Enjoy it while it lasts, because Father Time is undefeated."*

Trevor Megill (RP) — MIL | \$6

Role/Status: Closer for Milwaukee. 30 saves, 2.49 ERA, 11.5 K/9 in 2025. Making his first spring appearance.

Value Assessment: Solid closer. Reliable, cost-effective, and in a stable role. Projected for 457.3 FPTS — actually an improvement over his 2025 (368.7), which feels optimistic but reflects a full season's workload.

Risk Factors: He's 32, and the Brewers are always one organizational decision away from shaking up their bullpen. But for now, the job is his.

□ *"Trevor Megill is the kind of closer who will never make a highlight reel but will quietly bank you 30 saves while you're not looking. Fantasy's unsung hero."*

Edwin Diaz (RP) — LAD | \$29

Role/Status: Now with the Dodgers. No recent stats available in this data, which is... concerning. 492.4 FPTS in 2025, projected for 493.3 in 2026.

Value Assessment: Solid but overpaid. \$29 for a reliever is a LOT of money, even for a closer on the Dodgers. When Diaz is locked in, he's one of the most dominant relievers alive. When he's not, he's a hand grenade.

Risk Factors: The \$29 salary is brutal for a reliever. He's had major injury issues in recent years. The Dodgers' bullpen is crowded, and while he should close, there's always a chance the role gets muddied. No recent stats available is a data gap I can't ignore.

□ "\$29 for a reliever when you already have Chapman and Megill is like buying a third Ferrari when you don't have a garage. Flashy? Sure. Necessary? Absolutely not."

Adrian Morejon (RP) — SD | \$6

Role/Status: Setup man for San Diego. 75 games, 20 holds, 3 saves. Elite ratios (2.08 ERA, 0.90 WHIP) but not in a closer role.

Value Assessment: Streamer/depth piece. The ratios are beautiful, but in a saves-focused league, a setup man's value is limited. 426.4 FPTS in 2025 is solid for a middle reliever, but the projection drops to 330.9.

Risk Factors: 17% ownership tells you everything. If he doesn't get saves, he's a ratio play at best. Could lose his role or get hurt and no one would notice.

□ "Adrian Morejon is the guy at the party who's actually really cool but nobody knows his name. Great ratios, no saves, and 17% ownership. He's one bad week from being dropped."

Reid Detmers (RP) — LAA | \$4

Role/Status: Reliever for the Angels. Day-to-day with an elbow injury. "Unsteady in spring debut." Former starting pitching prospect who's been converted to relief after a disastrous 2024.

Value Assessment: Landmine. A 3.96 ERA in relief isn't terrible, but he's day-to-day with an ELBOW injury, he's on the ANGELS, he's 18% owned, and his spring debut was described as "unsteady." This is a roster spot actively working against you.

Risk Factors: Elbow injury for a pitcher = nightmare fuel. The Angels are a tire fire. He's not closing. He's not dominant. Why is he here?

□ "Reid Detmers on your roster is like keeping expired milk in the fridge because 'it might still be good.' It's not good. Throw it out."

6. Best Picks / Steals

- □ **Garrett Crochet at \$22:** The best value on this roster, full stop. An ace-caliber SP who put up 895 FPTS for the cost of a mid-range starter. Even with regression, he's a steal.
- □ **Aroldis Chapman at \$6:** 548.8 FPTS and 32 saves for \$6. That's not a keeper — that's grand larceny. The age risk is real, but the price makes it irrelevant.

- **Eugenio Suarez at \$6:** 49 homers and 118 RBI at this salary is genuinely absurd. Even if he regresses to 30 HR, you're still printing value.
 - **Daulton Varsho at \$3:** Projected for 531 FPTS at three dollars. If he plays a full season, this is the kind of value that wins leagues.
 - **Daylen Lile at \$4:** A 23-year-old hitting .299 with developing tools. The cheapest lottery ticket on the roster, and it might actually pay off.
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7. Worst Picks / "What Were You Thinking?"

- **Mookie Betts at \$68:** Look, it's Mookie Betts. I get it. But you're paying \$68 — the highest salary on your roster after Ohtani — for a player trending sharply downward. His 2025 OPS (.732) was his worst full-season mark in years. He's 33, he's declining, and \$68 is handcuffing your entire budget. This salary needs to produce 700+ FPTS and he's projected for 525. That's a \$20+ overpay.
 - **Austin Riley at \$26:** Two consecutive years of injury-shortened, underwhelming seasons. You're paying for the memory of 2023 Austin Riley, not the reality of 2025 Austin Riley. At \$26 with an abdomen issue, this is dead money until proven otherwise.
 - **Edwin Diaz at \$29:** You already have Chapman and Megill for \$6 each. Spending \$29 on a third closer is obscene resource allocation. That's \$29 you could've spent on another bat or a starting pitcher. Three closers is a luxury; three closers where one costs \$29 is a strategic error.
 - **Reid Detmers at \$4:** The salary is cheap, but the roster spot is valuable. An injured, struggling, Angels reliever with 18% ownership has no business being on a contending roster. This is the fantasy equivalent of hoarding newspapers.
 - **Keeping Kyle Bradish at \$11:** I understand the upside, but you're paying \$11 for a pitcher who's made 14 starts in two years. That's \$0.79 per start. At some point, upside without availability is just a nice story you tell yourself.
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8. Draft-Day Advice / Next Moves

1. **Drop Reid Detmers immediately.** He's day-to-day with an elbow injury, 18% owned, and contributing nothing. Use that roster spot on literally anyone else — a streaming starter, a hot bat, a closer handcuff. A ham sandwich would provide more value.
2. **Monitor Devers' health obsessively.** "Halted all activity" is terrifying for a \$46 keeper. If there's any indication he'll miss significant time, you need to have a contingency plan — whether that's a trade, a waiver pickup at 1B/DH, or a pivot in strategy. Do NOT sleepwalk into the season assuming he'll be fine.

3. **Consider trading one of your three closers.** You have Chapman, Megill, and Diaz. That's overkill. Shop Diaz (highest salary, most name value) to a saves-needy team and get a starting pitcher or an outfielder with a pulse. You'll still have 60+ saves from Chapman and Megill alone.
 4. **Target batting average on the waiver wire.** Your lineup is going to hemorrhage AVG points. Look for high-average, low-power guys who can balance out the Cruz/Suarez/Varsho damage. Think contact-first utility bats or outfielders with .280+ averages.
 5. **Find a stolen base source.** Outside of Cruz and Ohtani, this team doesn't run. If there's a speed-first outfielder or middle infielder available in the draft or waivers, grab them. You need someone who can steal 20+ bags without destroying your other categories.
 6. **Have a 1B/3B contingency plan.** Devers (shut down), Riley (abdomen), and Suarez (age 34) are your corner infield options. If two of them go down simultaneously, you're in serious trouble. Identify a waiver wire 1B/3B now, before you need one.
 7. **Don't overreact to Cruz's 2025.** The .200 average is ugly, but the tools are legitimate. He's 27, he's in his prime, and the power-speed combo is rare. Let him ride. But also don't start him in weekly leagues where you need batting average — platoon him based on matchups if possible.
 8. **Ride Varsho hard if he's healthy.** At \$3 with a 531 FPTS projection, he's your biggest potential value gain. Make sure he's in your starting lineup every day. The 20 HR in 71 games pace is unsustainable, but even 25-30 HR with 10 SB would be fantastic at that price.
 9. **Watch Adrian Morejon's role.** If the Padres' closer gets hurt or traded, Morejon could slide into the 9th inning role. His ratios are elite. Keep him rostered as a handcuff to potential closer value, but be ready to cut bait if nothing changes by June.
 10. **Prepare for Chapman's inevitable regression/injury.** He's 38. The 1.17 ERA is not repeatable. Identify his handcuff in Boston's bullpen and be ready to pounce. When (not if) Chapman falters, you need to have the next guy ready.
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9. Final Grade

Grade: B

This is a talented roster with a genuine championship ceiling, undermined by risky salary allocation, injury concentration, and some baffling depth decisions. The top of the roster (Ohtani, Crochet, Fried, Chapman, Suarez at \$6) is legitimately

terrifying. The bottom of the roster (Detmers, Morejon, injured Riley, declining Betts at \$68) is a house of cards in a windstorm.

The value picks are excellent. The premium picks are questionable. The overall construction is a team that could win it all or finish 6th, with very little in between.

"If this team wins, it'll be because..." Ohtani goes nuclear again, Crochet repeats as an ace, Varsho and Cruz hit their projections, and Devers comes back healthy by May. When this roster's ceiling hits, it's a top-2 team in any league.

"If this team loses, it'll be because..." Devers misses significant time, Mookie continues declining at \$68, Riley can't stay on the field (again), Chapman's arm finally files for retirement, and the batting average hole swallows the team whole. There are about seven things that need to go right simultaneously, and this manager is praying to every fantasy god that they do.

Bottom line: You built a Lamborghini with a few parts from AutoZone. When it runs, it's magnificent. When something breaks — and something will break — you better have AAA on speed dial.