

James Estrada and the Green World Order

Unbiased Team Analysis

August 07, 2026

Overall Grade: C+

□ Unbiased Analysis: James Estrada and the Green World Order

The Mendoza Line League | 21 Players | \$466 Total Salary

1. Overall Team Summary (Brutal Honesty Edition)

Quick Verdict: Competitive Contender with a Crumbling Foundation

This is a team that looks like it was built by someone who read half of a "How to Win Fantasy Baseball" article, got distracted by a shiny prospect, and then panic-bought pitching like a doomsday prepper stocking canned goods. The top of the roster is genuinely impressive — Skubal, Carroll, Schwarber, Kurtz — but the bottom half looks like the clearance rack at a Dollar General that only sells baseball players.

One-liner roast: You named your team the "Green World Order" and then spent \$100 on Yoshinobu Yamamoto like you were trying to single-handedly fund the Dodgers' luxury tax.

One-liner compliment: Nick Kurtz at \$10 is the kind of steal that makes other managers lose sleep and question their life choices.

2. Roster Construction & Strategy

What the manager prioritized: Power hitting and top-end starting pitching. This team is built to mash dingers and rack up strikeouts from the mound. Schwarber's 56 bombs, Kurtz's 36, Carroll's 31, Buxton's 35 — that's a murderer's row of home run production. On the pitching side, Skubal is literally the CBS #1 ranked player, and Yamamoto is #7. The manager clearly believes in spending big on aces.

What they ignored: Oh, where to begin. Batting average. Contact hitting. A functional bench. A second baseman. Literally any catcher worth a damn. The concept of positional depth. This roster has two first basemen (Kurtz and Stewart), two center fielders (Buxton and a ghost named Austin Overn), and exactly zero players with 2B eligibility on a 21-man roster unless you count Willi Castro, who's hitting .226 and plays for the *Rockies*.

Where the roster is fragile: Everywhere below the starting lineup. Byron Buxton is one awkward sneeze away from the IL (as is tradition). Corey Seager is already day-to-day with an abdomen issue. MacKenzie Gore is day-to-day with an ankle. Your bench is Jose Miranda (who posted **negative fantasy points** in 2025), Austin Overn (0% owned, zero stats, literal phantom), and Willi Castro. If two starters go down simultaneously, this team is cooked like a Thanksgiving turkey left in the oven overnight.

3. Strengths

- **Elite Pitching Ace Duo:** Tarik Skubal (905.3 FPTS in 2025, 2.21 ERA, 241 K) and Yoshinobu Yamamoto (726.6 FPTS, 2.49 ERA, 201 K) give you a 1-2 punch that most teams would commit crimes to acquire. Skubal is the #1 overall player on CBS. That's not a strength, that's a cheat code.
- **Schwarber is a Fantasy Cheat Code:** 56 home runs. 132 RBI. 826.5 fantasy points. At \$28. The man hit more home runs than some teams' entire rosters. He's 33 and projections show regression (658.8), but even a 20% decline still makes him elite.
- **Nick Kurtz at \$10 is Obscene:** A 22-year-old who slashed .290/.383/.619 with 36 homers in his age-21 season, ranked #4 on CBS, and you're paying him \$10. That's the best value on this entire roster by a country mile. This is the pick that justifies the manager's existence.
- **Corbin Carroll's Five-Tool Upside:** 31 HR, 32 SB, 107 runs, 17 triples (!) in 2025. At \$22, he's a legitimate five-category contributor who just turned 25. He bounced back hard from a disappointing 2024 and looks like the 2023 ROY version again.
- **George Springer at \$8 is a Heist:** The man posted a .309/.399/.560 slash line with 32 HR and 18 SB at age 35. For eight dollars. That's less than what most people pay for lunch. Projected for 665.8 FPTS in 2026 — if he stays healthy, this is top-20 value at a fast-food price.
- **Closer Stability:** Andrés Muñoz (38 saves, 1.73 ERA) and Daniel Palencia (22 saves) give you a legitimate two-closer setup. Kyle Finnegan adds another 24 saves. That's 84 saves from three guys. In a category league, that's dominance.

4. Weaknesses / Red Flags

- **\$100 on Yamamoto is Financial Malpractice:** He's excellent, but you're paying \$100 — over 21% of your total salary — on a single starting pitcher. His 2026 projection (622.1) is a meaningful step down from 2025 (726.6). That's elite SP2 money for what might be SP1 production, but at that price, he needs to be Cy Young or you're getting robbed. For context, Skubal is CBS #1 and costs you \$33. Yamamoto is CBS #7 and costs you THREE TIMES MORE.
- **Byron Buxton: The Annual "This Is His Year" Gamble:** \$24 for a guy who has played 140+ games exactly ZERO times in his career. He managed 126 in 2025, which for Buxton is basically an iron man season. He's now 32. The projections (710.9 FPTS) assume health that Buxton has historically treated as optional. You're one hamstring twinge from paying \$24 for 60 games.
- **Corey Seager at \$42 While Day-to-Day:** He's already dealing with an abdomen issue before the season starts. He played only 102 games in 2025 (378.6 FPTS — yikes) and 123 in 2024. For \$42, you need a full season. His 2025 was a disaster by his standards — 21 HR, 50 RBI in 102 games. The talent is there (6.14 WAR despite limited games), but you're paying premium price for a guy who can't stay on the field.
- **Catcher is a Black Hole:** Bo Naylor hit .195 with a .661 OPS in 2025. His projected 256.8 FPTS for 2026 is basically "replacement level with a pulse." At \$1 he's cheap, but you're getting what you pay for — which is a guy who strikes out 24% of the time and has the batting average of a decent pitcher.
- **Austin Overn: Who?** 0% owned. Zero fantasy points. No stats available. No projection. You're keeping a literal ghost on your roster for \$3. This isn't a sleeper pick, this is a coma pick. This roster spot is actively hurting you.
- **MacKenzie Gore at \$20 is Paying for Potential That Never Arrives:** A 4.17 ERA, 5-15 record, and he's already day-to-day with an ankle injury heading into 2026. His spring ERA is 12.79. You're paying \$20 for a guy whose 2025 FPTS (351.4) was barely above replacement level. The projection (494.8) is optimistic, but Gore has been "about to break out" since the Obama administration.
- **Zac Gallen's Decline is Real:** From a 706.7 FPTS Cy Young-caliber 2023 to 374.5 FPTS in 2025 with a 4.83 ERA and 31 home runs allowed. That's not a blip — that's a trend. At \$26, you're paying for 2023 Gallen and getting 2025 Gallen. His projected 413.5 FPTS barely justifies his salary.
- **No Second Baseman. At All.** Willi Castro has 2B eligibility but is a 19% owned, .226-hitting Rockies bench player. That's your plan? Hope that Coors

Field magic turns a negative-WAR player into something useful? This is a gaping positional hole that screams "I forgot 2B existed during the draft."

5. Player-by-Player Takes

BATTERS

Nick Kurtz (1B) — ATH | \$10 KEEPER

Role/Status: Starting 1B, batting leadoff in spring. 22 years old. CBS Rank #4 overall. This is the real deal.

Value Assessment: □ ELITE. A 22-year-old who posted a 1.002 OPS with 36 HR in 117 games as a rookie. His .329 ISO is monstrous. Projected for 690.6 FPTS — and that might be conservative if he gets a full 150+ game season.

Risk Factors: Sophomore slump is always possible. Only 117 games played in 2025. The early 2026 spring numbers (.143 BA) are meaningless but worth monitoring. 151 strikeouts suggest some swing-and-miss that pitchers could exploit with adjustments.

Verdict: *This pick is disgusting — in the best way. \$10 for a potential top-5 overall player. If this kid stays healthy, you're laughing all the way to the championship.*

Corey Seager (SS) — TEX | \$42 KEEPER

Role/Status: Starting SS. Day-to-day with abdomen issue. Recently returned from illness. CBS Rank #28.

Value Assessment: △ SOLID but OVERPAID. When healthy, he's a top-10 SS with 30+ HR power. But "when healthy" is doing a LOT of heavy lifting in that sentence. 102 games in 2025, 123 in 2024. You're paying \$42 for a guy who gives you 70% of a season.

Risk Factors: Already banged up before Opening Day. Abdomen injuries are sneaky — they linger. He's 31 and his body is starting to file complaints. The 378.6 FPTS in 2025 was atrocious for a \$42 player.

Verdict: *You're paying Rolls-Royce money for a car that spends half the year in the shop. Seager's talent is undeniable, but at \$42 you need 150 games, and this man treats the IL like a vacation home.*

Corbin Carroll (RF) — ARI | \$22 KEEPER

Role/Status: Starting RF. 25 years old. CBS Rank #8. Making strides with hitting program.

Value Assessment: ☐ ELITE. The 2025 bounceback was magnificent: .259/.343/.541 with 31 HR, 32 SB, and 17 triples (seventeen!). He's a five-category monster at \$22. The projection dips to 643 FPTS, but that's still outstanding value.

Risk Factors: The 2024 season (.231 BA, .749 OPS) showed he can crater. Strikeout rate is still elevated (153 K). At 5'10", 165 lbs, durability is always a mild concern, though he played 143 and 158 games the last two years.

Verdict: *The 17 triples alone are worth the price of admission. Carroll at \$22 is the second-best value on this roster. If he's truly figured it out, you've got a top-10 overall player at a mid-round price.*

Kyle Schwarber (DH) — PHI | \$28 KEEPER

Role/Status: Starting DH. Already homering in spring. CBS Rank #39 (which seems disrespectful).

Value Assessment: ☐ ELITE. 56 home runs. ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-TWO RBI. 826.5 fantasy points. The man is a wrecking ball. At \$28, he's a bargain after that kind of season. Yes, he's 33 and projections show a dip to 658.8, but even that would be excellent.

Risk Factors: He's a DH-only, which limits flexibility. The .240 batting average hurts in AVG leagues. 197 strikeouts is... a lot. Age 33 is when power hitters start to lose bat speed. The projection drop from 826 to 658 is significant.

Verdict: *Schwarber doesn't hit baseballs, he commits assault against them. Even with regression, you're getting 40+ HR production at a fair price. The batting average will make you cry, but the dingers will dry those tears.*

George Springer (DH) — TOR | \$8 KEEPER

Role/Status: OF/DH eligible. Multi-position flexibility. CBS Rank #18.

Value Assessment: ☐ STEAL. A .309 hitter with 32 HR and 18 SB at age 35, and you're paying \$8? Springer's 2025 was a career renaissance — 705.2 FPTS after a miserable 351.8 in 2024. Projected for 665.8 in 2026.

Risk Factors: He's 36 years old. The 2024 disaster (.220 BA, .674 OPS) is a reminder that the cliff exists and Springer has peeked over the edge. The 2025 bounceback could easily be an outlier rather than a new baseline. Toronto's lineup around him is... not great.

Verdict: *At \$8, even a 2024-style collapse doesn't kill you financially. But if you get anything close to 2025 Springer, you're robbing the league blind. Ride it until the wheels fall off — which could be any Tuesday.*

Austin Overn (CF) — TB | \$3 KEEPER

Role/Status: ????. 0% owned. Zero fantasy points. No stats. No projection. No pulse detected.

Value Assessment: ☐ MYSTERY BOX. And not the fun kind. The kind where you open it and it's empty except for a note that says "better luck next year."

Risk Factors: Everything. There is literally no data to evaluate. He's a 22-year-old Rays prospect with no MLB stats, no projection, and no one in any fantasy league on Earth owns him.

Verdict: *James, buddy. You're keeping a player that ZERO PERCENT of fantasy managers own. Not 1%. Not 0.5%. ZERO. This is a \$3 roster spot that could be literally anyone else. What do you know that the entire fantasy baseball community doesn't? Are you Austin Overn's dad?*

Bo Naylor (C) — CLE | \$1

Role/Status: Starting C. Solid spring so far (.500 BA in 4 games, small sample).

Value Assessment: ☐ REPLACEMENT LEVEL. A .195 hitter with a .661 OPS. His projected 256.8 FPTS is the fantasy equivalent of white toast — it exists, it technically counts as food, but nobody's excited about it.

Risk Factors: He can't hit. That's the risk. Two consecutive seasons below .200 BA. The power (14 HR) is decent for a catcher, but the average and OBP drag everything down.

Verdict: *At \$1, you get what you pay for. Naylor is a warm body behind the plate. Catcher is a wasteland in fantasy, so this is fine, but "fine" is the best thing anyone has ever said about this pick.*

Jose Miranda (3B) — SD | \$1

Role/Status: 3B. Now with San Diego. Posted NEGATIVE 1.9 fantasy points in 2025 (12 games). Projected for 352.2 in 2026.

Value Assessment: ☐ DART THROW. His 2024 with Minnesota (.284 BA, 9 HR, 121 games) showed he can be a useful player. But 2025 was an absolute catastrophe — 12 games, .167 BA, zero walks, 13 strikeouts. The move to San Diego could help.

Risk Factors: Playing time is not guaranteed. He walked ZERO times in 36 plate appearances in 2025. His approach at the plate is "swing at everything and pray." The projection of 352 FPTS assumes a full-time role he hasn't earned.

Verdict: *At \$1, the risk is minimal. If Miranda gets regular at-bats in San Diego, he could be a useful 3B. If not, you're out a buck. This is the fantasy equivalent of*

buying a scratch-off ticket — probably worthless, but at least it was cheap.

Byron Buxton (CF) — MIN | \$24 KEEPER

Role/Status: Starting CF. CBS Rank #13. The annual "will he play 130 games?" sweepstakes begins anew.

Value Assessment: ✂ ELITE CEILING, GLASS FLOOR. When healthy, Buxton is a top-15 fantasy player — 35 HR, 24 SB, .264 BA, 97 runs in 2025. The projected 710.9 FPTS would be outstanding. The problem is the word "when."

Risk Factors: **Byron. Buxton. Cannot. Stay. Healthy.** 126 games in 2025 was his career high in the last four years. 102 in 2024. 58 in 2023. He's 32 now, which is when injury-prone players become *more* injury-prone, not less. At \$24, you need 120+ games to justify the cost.

Verdict: *Owning Byron Buxton is like dating someone who's incredible when they show up but ghosts you for weeks at a time. The talent is generational. The body is held together with duct tape and optimism. At \$24, you're basically betting on a miracle — and honestly, you might get one. But you probably won't.*

Sal Stewart (1B) — CIN | \$2 KEEPER

Role/Status: Prospect. 22 years old. Only 18 MLB games in 2025 (57.5 FPTS). Spring has been electric — .429 BA, 2 HR, 5 RBI in 6 games. Hitting "mammoth homers" per the news.

Value Assessment: □ HIGH-UPSIDE STASH. The projection of 409.2 FPTS assumes a significant role, and the spring performance is encouraging. At \$2, this is a lottery ticket with real potential.

Risk Factors: Only 1B eligible, and you already have Nick Kurtz there. Playing time is not guaranteed — 18 games in 2025 suggests he's not yet a lock for the everyday lineup. The .200 walk-to-strikeout ratio in his brief MLB stint is concerning.

Verdict: *Love the price, love the upside, hate the positional overlap with Kurtz. You're essentially betting that Stewart breaks out AND that you can find a spot for him. At \$2, it's smart dynasty thinking. Just don't expect him to save your season.*

Willi Castro (RF) — COL | \$3 KEEPER

Role/Status: Multi-position eligible (2B, 3B, LF, RF). Your only 2B-eligible player. Playing for Colorado. Plans to "be aggressive on basepaths."

Value Assessment: □ STREAMER AT BEST. A .226 hitter with negative WAR in 2025. Only 19% owned. The Coors Field factor gives him some appeal, but a

projected 248 FPTS is barely rosterable.

Risk Factors: He's bad. His 2025 was bad (.226/.313/.366). Even with Coors, his power (11 HR) and speed (10 SB) are mediocre. The multi-position eligibility is his only real selling point.

Verdict: *Willi Castro is the human equivalent of a participation trophy. He shows up, he plays, and the results are aggressively average. At \$3 with multi-position eligibility, he's a roster filler, not a roster builder. The fact that he's your ONLY second baseman is a five-alarm fire.*

PITCHERS

Tarik Skubal (SP) — DET | \$33 KEEPER

Role/Status: Ace. CBS Rank #1 OVERALL. Set for WBC start. The best pitcher in fantasy baseball.

Value Assessment: □ ELITE. UNDISPUTED. 2.21 ERA, 0.89 WHIP, 241 K in 195.1 IP. A 7.3 K/BB ratio that borders on absurd. 905.3 FPTS in 2025. At \$33, he's a screaming bargain for the consensus #1 player.

Risk Factors: He had Tommy John surgery history (missed most of 2023). Workload is always a concern for pitchers. The projection dips to 813.6, which is still elite but represents some expected regression. WBC workload in March could be a mild concern.

Verdict: *Skubal at \$33 while Yamamoto costs \$100 is the kind of salary disparity that should make James lie awake at night questioning his life choices. This is the crown jewel of the roster. Protect him at all costs.*

Yoshinobu Yamamoto (SP) — LAD | \$100 KEEPER

Role/Status: SP2 on the Dodgers. CBS Rank #7. Tossed 1.2 frames in spring debut.

Value Assessment: □ SOLID but WILDLY OVERPAID. 2.49 ERA, 201 K in 173.2 IP is excellent. But \$100 is an INSANE price tag. His projected 622.1 FPTS would rank him as a good-not-great SP1 — and you're paying him like he's the second coming of Pedro Martinez.

Risk Factors: \$100 salary means he needs to be a top-3 fantasy pitcher to justify the cost, and his projections say he won't be. He missed significant time in 2024 (341.2 FPTS). The Dodgers manage workloads carefully, which could cap his innings. Spring ERA of 5.79 in limited work.

Verdict: *Yamamoto is very good. \$100 good? Absolutely not. You're paying \$100 for what projections say will be the 7th-best pitcher. That's like paying steak prices for a really nice chicken dinner. The chicken is great, but you got fleeced. This contract is an anchor around this team's financial neck.*

Andrés Muñoz (RP) — SEA | \$16 KEEPER

Role/Status: Closer. 38 saves in 2025. CBS Rank #2 among relievers. Filthy stuff.

Value Assessment: □ ELITE CLOSER. A 1.73 ERA with 83 K in 62.1 IP and 38 saves. He's the best closer in fantasy baseball. At \$16, this is strong value for a guy who locks down an entire category.

Risk Factors: Relievers are inherently volatile. Seattle's offense doesn't give him many save opportunities some nights. The projection (476.8) shows expected regression, but that's still elite RP territory.

Verdict: *Muñoz throws 102 mph and makes hitters look like they're swinging pool noodles. At \$16, he's your saves foundation. No complaints here.*

Matt Brash (RP) — SEA | \$4 KEEPER

Role/Status: Setup man / occasional save chance. 21 holds, 4 saves in 2025. Only 13% owned. Recently had a tooth removed (seriously).

Value Assessment: □ SOLID DEPTH PIECE. A 2.47 ERA with 58 K in 47.1 IP and elite strikeout stuff (11 K/9). The projection of 354.2 FPTS is decent for \$4. He's a handcuff to Muñoz if the closer role ever opens up.

Risk Factors: Only 13% owned, which means the fantasy community isn't buying what he's selling. He missed all of 2024 (no stats available). Tooth extraction issues are... a new one. If Muñoz stays healthy, Brash is a holds guy with limited upside.

Verdict: *A \$4 setup man with closer upside is fine roster construction. The tooth thing is hilarious but irrelevant. He's the kind of guy you forget is on your roster until he randomly saves a game and you feel like a genius.*

Daniel Palencia (RP) — CHC | \$4 KEEPER

Role/Status: Closer for the Cubs. 22 saves in 2025. 60% owned. Spring has been sharp (0.00 ERA, 2 holds).

Value Assessment: □ SOLID. A 2.91 ERA with 22 saves and a 3.81 K/BB ratio is a quality closer. At \$4, this is excellent value. The projection of 389 FPTS suggests he'll be even better in 2026.

Risk Factors: The Cubs bullpen is always a committee risk. Only 1-6 record suggests the team behind him isn't always helpful. 60% ownership means he's not a

lock — some managers don't trust the role.

Verdict: *Palencia at \$4 is the kind of quiet, smart pick that wins leagues. Not sexy, but effective. Like a Honda Civic — reliable, affordable, and gets the job done.*

Shane Baz (SP) — BAL | \$12 KEEPER

Role/Status: Starting pitcher, now with Baltimore. 31 starts in 2025. Fanned four in spring debut.

Value Assessment: ⚠ HIGH-RISK, MODERATE REWARD. The stuff is electric (9.5 K/9, 176 K) but the results are ugly — 4.87 ERA, 1.33 WHIP, 26 HR allowed. Moving to Baltimore helps (better defense, better lineup support), but the projection of only 322.6 FPTS is concerning for \$12.

Risk Factors: Extensive injury history (missed years with Tommy John). The 4.87 ERA in 2025 wasn't just bad luck — 26 home runs allowed in 166 innings is a real problem. His spring ERA is 5.06.

Verdict: *Baz has the arm talent of an ace and the results of a back-end starter. The Baltimore move is intriguing, but at \$12 you're paying for the dream, not the reality. He's a coin flip wrapped in an arm sleeve.*

Kyle Finnegan (RP) — DET | \$4 KEEPER

Role/Status: Reliever, now with Detroit. 24 saves in 2025 with Washington. Preparing for a role alongside Skubal's Tigers.

Value Assessment: ☐ DECLINING ASSET. His 2025 (308 FPTS, 3.47 ERA, 24 saves) was solid, but the projection craters to 223.8 FPTS. He's 34 years old and moving to a new team where his closer role is NOT guaranteed. Only 23% owned.

Risk Factors: Age 34 for a reliever is the danger zone. Detroit may not hand him the closer job — they have other options. The projected decline from 308 to 223.8 FPTS is steep. Only 11% started suggests the fantasy community views him as droppable.

Verdict: *Finnegan was useful in Washington. In Detroit, he might be a setup man, which makes him a \$4 holds merchant. Not the worst thing in the world, but not what you drafted him for. He's on the roster bubble.*

MacKenzie Gore (SP) — TEX | \$20 KEEPER

Role/Status: Starting pitcher. Day-to-day with ankle injury. Spring ERA: 12.79. Yikes.

Value Assessment: ☐ LANDMINE. A 4.17 ERA, 5-15 record, and 351.4 FPTS in 2025 — for \$20. That's paying mid-tier SP1 money for SP5 production. The

projection (494.8) is optimistic and assumes a healthy, full season that Gore has never delivered.

Risk Factors: Already injured before the season starts. Spring numbers are horrifying (12.79 ERA, 2.37 WHIP). He's been "the next big thing" for years and has never put it together for a full season. 185 K shows the stuff is there, but 64 walks and 20 HR allowed show the command isn't.

Verdict: *MacKenzie Gore at \$20 is like paying for a gourmet meal and receiving a microwave burrito. The ingredients are theoretically there, but the execution is a disaster. This is the most overpaid pitcher on the roster not named Yamamoto.*

Zac Gallen (SP) — ARI | \$26 KEEPER

Role/Status: Starting pitcher. Worked a scoreless inning in spring. CBS Rank not in top tier.

Value Assessment: ▢ DECLINING AND OVERPAID. From 706.7 FPTS in 2023 to 456.3 in 2024 to 374.5 in 2025. That's a three-year freefall. A 4.83 ERA with 31 home runs allowed is not what you want from a \$26 pitcher. Projected for 413.5 FPTS, which barely justifies the salary.

Risk Factors: The decline is real and sustained. 31 HR allowed suggests he's lost his ability to keep the ball in the park. He's 30, which isn't old, but the trajectory is pointing firmly downward. Only 59% owned — the fantasy community is bailing on him.

Verdict: *Gallen at \$26 is paying for the memory of 2023. That guy is gone. You're now paying premium money for a back-end starter who gives up bombs like he's running a home run derby. This contract is an albatross.*

Brad Keller (RP) — PHI | \$5 KEEPER

Role/Status: Setup man for the Phillies. Preparing for setup role per news. 25 holds in 2025.

Value Assessment: ▢ USEFUL BUT FRAGILE. His 2025 was excellent (2.07 ERA, 0.96 WHIP, 75 K in 69.2 IP), but the projection craters to 191.8 FPTS — suggesting the fantasy community expects heavy regression. Only 9% owned.

Risk Factors: He was essentially out of baseball in 2023-2024 (7.6 and 15.4 FPTS). The 2025 breakout could easily be a one-year wonder. Spring ERA of 9.00 isn't encouraging. At 30 with his history, regression is the smart bet.

Verdict: *Keller's 2025 was a wonderful surprise, like finding \$20 in your coat pocket. The problem is you're now expecting to find \$20 in that pocket every time,*

and the projection says the pocket is empty. At \$5 and 9% owned, he's a roster spot that could be better used elsewhere.

6. Best Picks / Steals

- **☐ Nick Kurtz at \$10:** CBS Rank #4 overall. A 22-year-old with 36 HR and a 1.002 OPS. This is the pick of the draft — the kind of value that makes other managers physically ill. If he plays 150 games, you're looking at a potential league-winning asset at a budget price.
 - **☐ George Springer at \$8:** A .309 hitter with 32 HR and 18 SB for the price of a mediocre bench bat. Even accounting for age-36 risk, the value here is absurd. CBS Rank #18 for \$8 is highway robbery.
 - **☐ Corbin Carroll at \$22:** A five-tool, 25-year-old stud who just posted 31 HR and 32 SB. At \$22, he's a top-10 player at a mid-range salary. The 2025 bounceback was legitimate and the best is likely still ahead.
 - **☐ Andrés Muñoz at \$16:** The best closer in fantasy at a reasonable price. 38 saves, 1.73 ERA, elite K rate. This is how you lock down the saves category without overpaying.
 - **☐ Daniel Palencia at \$4:** 22 saves from a closer for \$4 is outstanding value. Quiet, effective, and cheap. The perfect complementary closer to Muñoz.
-

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

- **☐ Yoshinobu Yamamoto at \$100:** This is the elephant in the room — hell, it's the elephant, the room, and the building the room is in. ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS. That's 21.5% of your total salary on one pitcher. Skubal is ranked higher and costs \$67 less. Yamamoto is very good, but this contract is financial suicide. You could have funded an entire bench with the overpay on this deal.
- **☐ Austin Overn at \$3 (KEEPER!):** You are KEEPING a player that zero percent of fantasy managers own. Zero. Not a single other person on planet Earth thinks this guy should be rostered, and you've committed a keeper slot to him. This is either the most galaxy-brained move in fantasy history or the dumbest. Smart money is on the latter.
- **☐ Zac Gallen at \$26:** You're paying \$26 for a pitcher in a three-year decline who posted a 4.83 ERA last season. His projected 413.5 FPTS means you're paying roughly \$0.063 per fantasy point, which is among the worst value ratios on your roster. Cut bait.
- **☐ MacKenzie Gore at \$20:** Day-to-day before the season starts. 12.79 spring ERA. 5-15 record in 2025. And you're paying \$20 for this experience? Gore has

been "about to break out" for so long that it's become a running joke. At some point, you have to accept that the breakout isn't coming.

- **□ Corey Seager at \$42:** Not a terrible player by any means, but \$42 for a guy who can't stay on the field is a tough pill to swallow. If he plays 150 games, this is fine. He won't play 150 games.
-

8. Draft-Day Advice / Next Moves

1. **Address the 2B Black Hole Immediately:** Your only 2B-eligible player is Willi Castro, a .226 hitter with 19% ownership. Target a legitimate second baseman in the draft or via trade. This is a five-alarm emergency. Look for someone like Nico Hoerner, Andrés Giménez, or even a mid-tier option like Jorge Polanco.
2. **Drop Austin Overn. Today. Right Now:** Use that roster spot on literally anyone with a pulse and a projection. A waiver wire pickup with 300+ projected FPTS would instantly improve your team. There is no scenario where a 0%-owned prospect with no stats is worth a keeper slot.
3. **Explore Trading Yamamoto:** His name value is immense — someone in your league will pay a premium for a Dodgers ace. If you can flip him for a \$40-50 player and free up \$50+ in salary, you dramatically improve your roster flexibility. The \$100 albatross needs to go.
4. **Handcuff Byron Buxton:** Identify Minnesota's next man up in center field and stash him on your bench. When (not if) Buxton hits the IL, you need a replacement ready. Don't get caught scrambling.
5. **Consider Moving Zac Gallen:** His name still carries weight from 2023. Find a manager who believes in the bounceback narrative and sell high on reputation. A \$26 pitcher projecting for 413 FPTS is a negative asset — turn him into something useful.
6. **Target Batting Average Help:** Your lineup is full of low-average power hitters (Schwarber .240, Naylor .195, Buxton .264). If your league counts AVG, you need a high-contact bat to balance things out. Look for guys like Luis Arraez, Steven Kwan, or Bobby Witt Jr. types.
7. **Monitor MacKenzie Gore's Ankle Closely:** If it's anything more than a minor tweak, consider cutting him loose. At \$20, he needs to be healthy and productive from Day 1 to justify the cost. Don't throw good money after bad.
8. **Add a Streaming SP Slot:** With Gore and Gallen both questionable, you might need a spot starter. Drop Brad Keller (9% owned, projected 191.8 FPTS) and use that slot for streaming high-matchup starters throughout the season.
9. **Ride the Sal Stewart Hype Train — Carefully:** His spring is electric, but he's blocked by Kurtz at 1B. If Stewart earns a full-time role, explore trading one of

your two 1B-eligible players while value is high.

0. **Shore Up Your Bench:** Your bench is currently Miranda (negative FPTS), Overn (zero everything), and Castro (barely rosterable). You need at least one legitimate bench bat who can step in without destroying your lineup. Target high-upside, low-cost players on waivers.
-

9. Final Grade

Grade: C+

This team has a **legitimate top-5 core** — Skubal, Kurtz, Carroll, Schwarber, and Muñoz are all elite or near-elite fantasy assets at reasonable prices. That's genuinely impressive and forms the backbone of a contender. But the rest of the roster is a **dumpster fire of overpays, ghosts, and wishful thinking**. The \$100 Yamamoto contract is a financial anchor. The bench is nonexistent. There's no real second baseman. Multiple pitchers are in decline or injured. The gap between the top of this roster and the bottom is the Grand Canyon.

If this team wins, it'll be because... Kurtz, Carroll, and Schwarber all have monster years, Skubal stays healthy and dominates, Buxton miraculously plays 140+ games, and the three-closer setup locks down saves while the rest of the league scrambles. The ceiling is a championship — the core is THAT good.

If this team loses, it'll be because... Buxton and Seager combine for 180 games instead of 300, the Yamamoto contract eats the budget alive, Gore and Gallen continue their descents into mediocrity, the bench contributes literally nothing, and the manager never addresses the gaping hole at second base. The floor is a bottom-three finish — and it's closer than James wants to admit.

The Green World Order has the firepower to compete, but it's built on a foundation of balsa wood and prayers. Fix the bench, dump the dead weight, and stop paying \$100 for pitchers. Do that, and this team could be dangerous. Don't, and you'll be watching the playoffs from your couch wondering what could have been.
