

2020 BOSTON RED SOX



SEASON PREVIEW

NEXT SUPERSTAR UP

Rafael Devers has a lot of pressure on him as the replacement for Mookie Betts



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2020

BOSTON RED SOX PREVIEW

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Dr. Marshal Armitage

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AP photo/Elise Amendola

While fans won't be around for most of the 60-game season due to COVID-19 restrictions, Bill Burt hopes the fans will have a lot to root for in this strange, but memorable season coming upon us.

By BILL BURT

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We will always remember the 2020 Major League Baseball season — win, lose or cancel.

This is going to be unlike anything baseball fans have witnessed or followed before.

Ballpark seats will be empty. Coaches will wear masks. The media will interview players and managers in Zoom meetings.

For the first time in what seems like forever, the Baltimore Orioles will be alive and kicking in late July.

What that means is, well, anything can happen. And that's how I see 2020 going the next nine or so weeks, 13 if you count the postseason.

Baseball at the highest

level needed an injection of life, and that was before we even knew what COVID-19 was.

The game is in a slump. And it needs to show its fans that this really is greatest game ever invented.

The fact that several superstars opted to stay home, for whatever reason, is not surprising. Owners and players have never really been on the same page, particularly the last two decades.

The hope was that the two sides could figure out what was in the best interest of not only themselves but the sport and the fans.

Well, they failed swimmingly. But that's a discussion for another day.

RED-y or not

Memorable season is upon us

What is upon us the next two-plus months, and then the bonus postseason month, could be a barometer of where the sport is trending the next few years. It seems we keep having the same discussions. The

best players in baseball, like Mike Trout and Mookie Betts, are under-publicized.

Fans don't really know two of the most exciting athletes, at least when they're performing on the field, of their generation.

The 60-game schedule is interesting because it gives everybody a shot, even the Orioles, if they can get out to a good start and possibly add some weaponry in late August at the trade deadline.

I really believe something crazy could happen. Maybe the Cincinnati Reds or Minnesota Twins, two MLB mid-majors, could win the World Series (I picked the Indians).

Maybe the MVP will be some unknown, under-the-radar guy who gets hot for nine weeks and belts 20 homers.

The best part of this experiment is every game is important. There is no May or June here, when four consecutive losses are rendered meaningless with a

four-game winning streak. But that's not the case here.

Four straight losses might be enough to end a run at the division title. Really.

The baseball powers should be taking notes and seeing how this "sprint" works versus the six-month marathon we've been watching our entire lives.

It's not perfect, but it could be fun, maybe a lot of fun.

Of course, there is a possibility it blows up in our collective faces and the season is cancelled.

Whatever the case, let's have an open mind. It's going to be memorable, whether we like it or not.

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NEXT SUPERSTAR UP

Rafael Devers is a key player in Sox season and future

By BILL BURT
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Every great team has a Mookie Betts somewhere in the middle of the lineup. Every team needs that game-changer, really, a season-changer.

The Washington Nationals had Anthony Rendon last season. Before the Red Sox won in 2018, you could argue that the Houston Astros had two or three Mookiees, in George Springer, José Altuve and Alex Bregman. They are MVP-caliber guys.

There's just one problem in Boston, same as the one in Washington with Rendon, who signed a 7-year, \$245 million deal with the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim.

Betts and his five tools are gone forever.

Something wasn't right with Betts and Boston. He wasn't comfortable even in what many of us believe is the best venue in all of baseball, with sellouts galore, home and away.

Betts had personality inside the white lines. He was electric. Outside of the park, he wasn't as electric or comfortable.

And, so after turning down what was rumored to be a 10 year deal at \$250 million to \$300 million, he basically told the Red Sox he was leaving. And the Sox acquiesced.

Which brings us to the team's new dilemma: Who's next?

Who will be the centerpiece of the Red Sox franchise going forward, if championships are truly the goal?

There really is only one candidate: Rafael Devers.

Xander Bogaerts may be the new team leader and go-to guy when the Red Sox media demand a statement. He is Mr. Positive. He really appears to love being on the team. But he isn't Devers.

Our first inkling that Devers might be extra special came in August 2017, when he was only

20 years old in Yankee Stadium. Closer Aroldis Chapman had Devers at 1-and-2, with one out, in the ninth inning with the Yankees leading 2-1.

Devers hit a 102 mph hour fastball over the center field fence to tie the score. The Red Sox eventually won game in the 10th inning.

The blast showed what Devers would become.

At 22, he was electric in last year's downer of a season. He led all of baseball with 90 extra base hits. He had 32 homers and an American League-leading 54 doubles to go with his 115 RBI and .311 batting average.

His discipline improved too, striking out fewer times, despite playing 35 more games than he did in 2018.

"He has the potential to be extra special, no doubt about it," said Red Sox manager Ron Roenicke in early March. "He's got a maturity at the plate that you can't teach."

In 2020, he is a bona fide MVP candidate.

Devers appears ready to join the other five or so under 25-year-olds who are taking ownership of baseball. Yankees shortstop Gleyber Torres (23) and Nationals left fielder Juan Soto (21) are other headliners in that group.

As important as Devers ability is his durability, at least it was in 2019.

He led the team playing in 156 games and in most offensive categories. And that's saying something with the likes of Betts,

Bogaerts and J.D. Martinez on the same team.

In March, Yankees reliever Adam Ottavino, a Northeastern University graduate, pitched an inning of perfect relief against the Red Sox. He didn't face Devers but knows him well.

Ottavino recalled a game last year when he threw one of his best pitches, which Devers lined out.

"He's as gifted a hitter as there is," said Ottavino. "He's got a really good swing. His hands are strong. He covers the entire plate.



Above, Boston Red Sox rookie Rafael Devers waits to come out for pregame introductions against the Houston Astros in the ALDS. At left, Devers celebrates his two-run homer off Houston Astros reliever Francisco Liriano.
DAVID LE/Staff photos



known as a complete player," Devers said through an interpreter after a game with the Yankees in Tampa in March. "I work hard on my defense every day. I like playing defense. I feel like I'm improving."

The Red Sox lost a key piece, an MVP-level member of the lineup, with the Mookie Betts trade. But the lineup that's left with Devers, Andrew Benintendi, Bogaerts, Martinez, Kevin Pillar and Alex Verdugo promises a lot of runs, and hopefully a lot of fun days ahead.

Which brings us to another Devers' staple -- his smile.

It never seems to go away. "No, I smile all of the time," he said. "I smile because I'm happy. I love baseball. This is what I do for a living. Why wouldn't I smile?"

You can email Bill Burt at bburt@eagletribune.com.

I faced him a few times last year, and he comes to the plate to hit. He's not up there waiting. He comes to hit."

Devers easily could have 40 homers, 130 RBI and a .325 batting average in that repertoire.

"He's a special guy," said Roenicke.

This off-season wasn't much different than the others, except the fact that Devers spent at least an hour each day working on his defense, which isn't MLB elite just yet.

"It's important for me that I am



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'X' MARKS THE SPOT

Bogaerts ascends to role as team leader

BY BILL BURT
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Xander Bogaerts heard his critics. With a .320 batting average, 7 homers and 81 RBI, at age 22, he was pretty darn good but not good enough.

Well, the Red Sox shortstop answered all of them.

He finished 2019 with career highs in doubles (52), homers (33) and RBI (117).

Here's some better news:

Those numbers last spring and summer were ahead of the 2018 season, which he finished with career highs in doubles (45), homers (23) and RBI (103).

But when you are somewhere in the middle of Mookie Betts, J.D. Martinez and the up-and-coming Rafael Devers, it's easy to get overlooked.

In fact, Bogaerts was better than Betts and Martinez last year. Period.

And, lest we remind you, he is considered in or near the Top 10 defensively, playing the toughest position in the sport, at shortstop.

"How good is Xander?" repeated Red Sox manager Ron Roenicke this spring. "He's as good and as consistent as there is. And the best part is, he's getting better."

With Dustin Pedroia not on the 40-man roster and yet to announce his impending retirement, Bogaerts is the longest tenured Red Sox player on the roster.

He joined the Sox in mid-August of 2013, after a productive, 60-game stint in Pawtucket, when Will Middlebrooks was injured and utility infielder Brock Holt wasn't deemed an everyday player at third base.

Bogaerts, a shortstop, was in an out of the lineup the rest of the regular season and in the first two rounds of the postseason. Then he started every game in the World Series, which the Sox won in six games over St. Louis.

"That experience was incredible," said Bogaerts. "I was a kid. But I got to experience being around

professionals. The fact that I got so much postseason experience and being around such a veteran team helped me incredibly."

Bogaerts ascent was slower than most fans and media expected. There was a failed attempt at moving him to third base during some struggles at shortstop in 2014, and then there were so-so numbers in terms of power.

But the last two seasons, the Aruba native has knocked on the Most Valuable Player door, finishing 13th overall in the American League voting in 2018 and fifth last season, which also saw his second career All-Star berth.

Bogaerts' best quality, though, is his presence.

Unlike Betts, he appears to really like playing in Boston.

And young players, including one important young man, 23-year-old Rafael Devers, seem to gravitate toward him.

The fact that Bogaerts talks a lot and Devers is only 30 feet away from him at third base, helps.

"I can't explain how lucky I am to have Bogie around," Devers said through an interpreter this spring. "Whenever I make a play, he always is there to help. Always. I love having him so close."

Bogaerts says he understands his duty, particularly after signing the team-friendly, seven-year extension, that starts this year for \$140 million, minus the COVID-19 reduction.

"This is where I always wanted to be," he said. "I love Boston. I love our fans. And I love our team. We have a good group of guys."

As for the pitching, which appears to be thin in the starting rotation, Bogaerts says that could change.

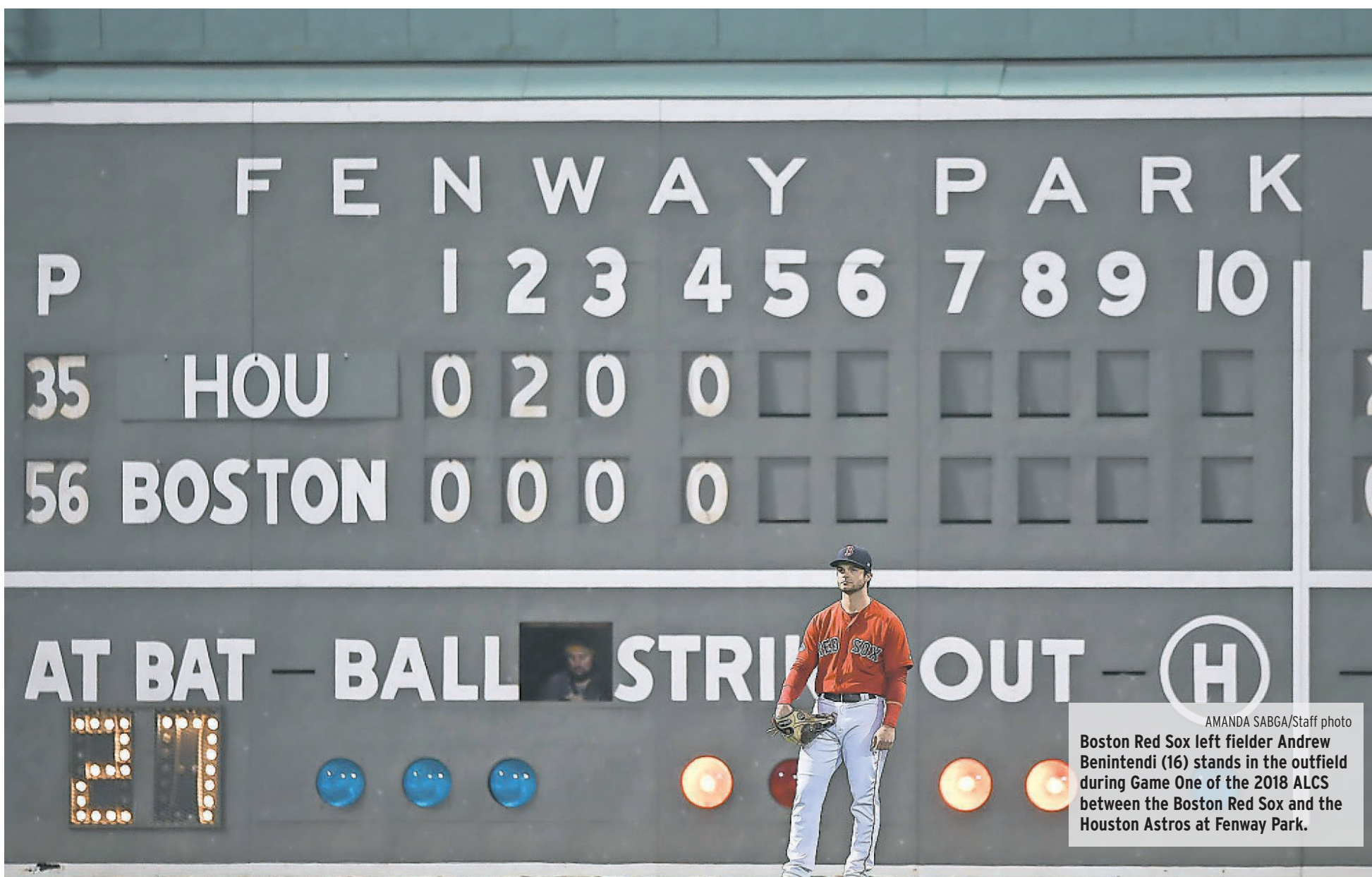
"Every year, it seems, someone surprises us," he said. "I think we're going to be hit the ball real well. If we just focus on playing good baseball, we have the talent here ... I can't wait."

You can email Bill Burt at bburt@eagletribune.com.



AMANDA SABGA/Staff photo

Red Sox shortstop Xander Bogaerts (2) blows bubbles while catching a pass during Game One of the ALDS between the Boston Red Sox and the New York Yankees at Fenway Park in Boston.



AMANDA SABGA/Staff photo
Boston Red Sox left fielder Andrew Benintendi (16) stands in the outfield during Game One of the 2018 ALCS between the Boston Red Sox and the Houston Astros at Fenway Park.

BETTER THAN YOU THINK

Sox lineup could hit its way through shortened season

Bill Burt



American League East for the 2020 season.

The New York Yankees and Tampa Bay Rays were prohibitive favorites to claim to the top two spots in the

And for good reason. Both are loaded. The Yankees lineup, one through nine, is lethal with Aaron Judge (RF), Gleyber Torres (SS) and Gary Sanchez (C) maybe the best hitters in baseball at their respective positions.

And their bullpen — Aroldis Chapman, Chad Green, Adam Ottavino, Zack Britton and Tommy Kahnle — boasts at least three with closer-like stuff.

The Rays starting rotation — Charlie Morton, Yonny Chirinos, Blake Snell and Tyler Glasnow — is arguably the best in Major League Baseball, all possible 20-game winners. And their lineup, one through nine, is deep enough and good enough to hold its own.

But guess what? In 2020, a two-month season, as opposed to the six-month, 162-game marathon,

changes everything. Depth isn't as important. Consistency isn't as important. Really, as crazy as this sounds, pitching isn't as important.

The 2020 MLB season will be unlike anything we've ever witnessed.

This is a 60-game sprint. This is a "whoever gets hot" season.

This is a perfect opportunity for your 2020 Boston Red Sox.

Do the Red Sox have some warts? You're darn right they do.

Starting pitching after Nathan Eovaldi, who is always a health concern, is a big question mark, especially if ace Eduardo Rodriguez requires extended prep time when he recovers from COVID-19.

But with the "sprint," the Red Sox are built to hit their way into October — or at least to the Aug. 31 trade

deadline.

Despite losing Mookie Betts, probably the second to fifth best hitter in baseball, via trade to the Los Angeles Dodgers, the Red Sox might have their best one-to-nine lineup ever.

OK, maybe that's a little strong, considering those wall-bangers from the mid-to-late 1970s (eight players with 14 or more homers in 1977) or that mid-1980s

See Lineup, **PAGE S22**



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A 'gap' season for new Red Sox **PRESIDENT**



AP file photo/Elise Amendola
Boston Red Sox's Chaim Bloom looks out at Fenway Park in Boston on Oct. 28, 2019, after it was announced he will be the baseball team's Chief Baseball Officer. In this role, Bloom will be responsible for all matters of baseball operations.

BY BILL BURT
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Some 21 months ago, we watched a massive celebration in Dodger Stadium.

Families. Photos. Smiles. Hugs. Thanks. And nothing but love after a dominating series and a Red Sox championship, the team's fourth in 14 years.

Taking a page out of Bill Belichick's playbook, the Sox had outsmarted everyone — or so we thought.

The next twelve months were unmitigated disaster. The 2019 Sox got off to a slow start. Manager Alex Cora thought he had the Midas Touch, inventing new methods of preparation. Staking out a position 180-degrees opposite "The Patriot Way," he embraced the World Series season, instead of putting it behind him to stay focused on what was ahead.

Team President Dave Dombrowski was fired before the end of the season. Cora's sign-stealing shenanigans with Houston would catch up to him.

The Sox needed not only new leadership but a new master plan. Enter chief baseball officer Chaim Bloom.

Bloom, who turned 37 in February, is an unlikely baseball exec. He never actually played baseball after Little League. He was a classics major at Yale.

Most importantly, he was part of a group of miracle workers in Tampa Bay's baseball ops department that somehow helped make the Rays legit contenders in the American League East for most of the last dozen years.

Their best work in Tampa was probably the last three years — with 80, 90 and 96 wins.

Beyond being well-liked, Bloom reportedly obsesses about minor league development, analytics and pitching.

The Red Sox, as it looks from here, are slumping in



AP file photo/John Bazemore

Ron Roenicke, right, speaks as Red Sox Chief Baseball Officer Chaim Bloom looks on after being named interim manager of the Boston Red Sox baseball team Feb. 11, in Fort Myers, Fla.

all three categories.

But I believe there is a bigger hole in the organization right now that needs as much of Bloom's time and obsession.

He needs to make it cool being a member of the Red Sox.

What does that mean?

If the Red Sox will overpay — and they have a lot recently — they can get anybody, even guys not suited for this rabid audience. See David Price.

No one may have a better feel for the winds of change blowing along Yawkee Way than Mookie Betts.

He was Red Sox property a month after he graduated high school in 2011. He has won a World Series ring

and a league MVP award. He's one month away from 1,000 career hits.

He's witnessed a few dozen of the coolest Red Sox pregame productions, from Patriots' Lombardi Trophy celebrations to team anniversaries to David Ortiz's retirement. He's played to more sell-outs, home and away, than any player over six seasons.

He loves baseball, Boston loves baseball, and the Boston fans love him. But

Bloom, who turned 37 in February, is an unlikely baseball exec. He never actually played baseball after Little League. He was a classics major at Yale.

he's wearing a Dodgers uniform.

Why didn't Mookie sign his 10-year deal with the "new" Red Sox, a deal that appeared to be a no-brainer?

Longtime Cincinnati Reds star Sean Casey, who spent his last year before retirement with the Sox in 2008, said upon leaving Boston: "If I could wish anything for every player in baseball, it would be to spend at least one year in Boston," said Casey.

"There's no place like it. The fans won't let you give up. It's amazing ... It's a baseball heaven."

It's heaven for a lot of people, but not Betts, who didn't get his break-the-bank deal from Bloom.

Dombrowski was the architect of Boston's carpet-bagging, quick-fix approach. He was a hired gun. He had a big checkbook — at least he did for a few years — and he spent to the limit.

Bloom comes to town under different circumstances.

Other than the trade for Betts, and throw-in Price with his beefy (\$80 million) remaining contract, for outfielder Alex Verdugo and prospects Jeter Downs

(SS) and Connor Wong (C), Bloom's off-season was quiet.

It's almost as if he's taking a "gap" season to assess everything, including the viability of Jackie Bradley Jr., Andrew Benintendi and J.D. Martinez. Are they worth what is potentially coming to them?

A shortened season and low expectations are a honeymoon for Bloom.

But this could also be a proving ground, come the deadline, if the Red Sox are viable candidates to compete for a championship. That might be easier than what's in store the next few years with so many holes.

You can email Bill Burt at bburt@eagletribune.com

Bill Burt's **MLB 2020** predictions

AL EAST

N.Y. Yankees
*Red Sox
Rays
Blue Jays
Orioles

AL CENTRAL

Minnesota
*Cleveland
Chicago W.S.
Detroit
Kansas City

AL WEST

L.A. Angels
Oakland
Houston
Seattle
Texas

NL EAST

N.Y. Mets
Washington
Atlanta
Philadelphia
Miami

NL CENTRAL

Cincinnati
*Milwaukee
St. Louis
Chicago
Pittsburgh

NL WEST

San Francisco
*L.A. Dodgers
Arizona
San Diego
Colorado

* -- Denotes Wild Card team

Cleveland Indians manager Terry Francona watches during baseball practice at Progressive Field. Bill Burt predicts the Indians finally have their big season after being close the last several years.



AP photo/
Ron Schwane

AL WILD CARD

Cleveland over Boston

NL WILD CARD

Milwaukee over Los Angeles

AL DIVISIONAL SERIES

Cleveland over N.Y. Yankees
Minnesota over L.A. Angels

NL DIVISIONAL SERIES

N.Y. Mets over Milwaukee
Cincinnati over San Francisco

AL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

Cleveland over Minnesota

NL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

N.Y. Mets over Cincinnati

WORLD SERIES

Cleveland over N.Y. Mets



2019 **MLB STANDINGS**

AL EAST

	W	L	W-L(%)	GB
New York Yankees	103	59	.636%	--
Tampa Bay Rays	96	66	.593%	7
Boston Red Sox	84	78	.519%	19
Toronto Blue Jays	67	95	.414%	36
Baltimore Orioles	54	108	.333%	49

AL WEST

	W	L	W-L%	GB
Houston Astros	107	55	.660%	--
Oakland Athletics	97	65	.599%	10
Texas Rangers	78	84	.481%	29
Los Angeles Angels	72	90	.444%	35
Seattle Mariners	68	94	.420%	39

NL CENTRAL

	W	L	W-L%	GB
St. Louis Cardinals	91	71	.562%	--
Milwaukee Brewers	89	73	.549%	2
Chicago Cubs	84	78	.519%	7
Cincinnati Reds	75	87	.463%	16
Pittsburgh Pirates	69	93	.426%	22

AL CENTRAL

	W	L	W-L%	GB
Minnesota Twins	101	61	.623%	--
Cleveland Indians	93	69	.574%	8
Chicago White Sox	72	89	.447%	28.5
Kansas City Royals	59	103	.364%	42
Detroit Tigers	47	114	.292%	53.5

NL EAST

	W	L	W-L%	GB
Atlanta Braves	97	65	.599%	--
Washington Nationals	93	69	.574%	4
New York Mets	86	76	.531%	11
Philadelphia Phillies	81	81	.500%	16
Miami Marlins	57	105	.352%	40

NL WEST

	W	L	W-L%	GB
Los Angeles Dodgers	106	56	.654%	--
Arizona Diamondbacks	85	77	.525%	21
San Francisco Giants	77	85	.475%	29
Colorado Rockies	71	91	.438%	35
San Diego Padres	70	92	.432%	36

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Not All CBD Is The Same: Your CBD Checklist

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CBD is everywhere you look today. It's in the grocery store, department store, pharmacy, and even gas stations. But not all CBD products are the same and most people don't know where to turn when looking for trustworthy information.

With so many ineffective brands on the market today, it's extremely difficult to know what you should be looking for in order to find a quality CBD product. That's where the "Your CBD Store" and SunMed brand story begins.

The SunMed brand was started less than 2 years ago by Rachel Quinn and her husband Marcus after she stumbled across CBD when desperately trying to find an alternative way to deal with her Crohn's disease, a painful inflammation of the digestive tract. Like most people who now walk through the doors of a Your CBD Store, she was tired of not feeling her best and wanted to find an alternative way to deal with her disease that would make her feel better and not affect her body negatively. On a friend's recommendation, she tried CBD and within 45 days she noticed a significant improvement in her health. During her search, she found it difficult to obtain

consistent information, so she made it her mission to produce the highest-quality CBD on the market, offer it at an affordable price and provide a welcoming spa-like environment for people to come in and receive education and guidance about CBD. Rachel opened her first Your CBD Store selling her SunMed products in Bradenton, FL in March 2018. Today the brand has grown to more than 600 locations making it the largest CBD retailer in The United States.

Rick and Laurie Smith, owners of "Your CBD Stores," opened their first store in Concord, NH in April of 2019, and based on the response from their family, friends, and community, opened their second store shortly thereafter in Plaistow, NH. Rick and Laurie understand the medicinal value of plants and believes CBD has genuine therapeutic potential that can provide a benefit to people experiencing a variety of health ailments. The reason the company has experienced so much growth is because we have coupled together the desire for quality CBD along with an educated staff who are able to provide the advice and support people are looking

for, Smith says. CBD is the main cannabinoid present in the hemp plant that provides an array of medicinal benefits without the "high" effect most people attribute to cannabis. Unfortunately, not all CBD products on the market today are created equally. In 2015, the FDA tested 18 CBD products and none of them contained CBD. In 2016, they repeated the test and found that 77% of products contained little to no CBD whatsoever. It's so important to buy from a trusted source, said Smith.

The bottom line: do your homework! When you add high-quality CBD to your daily regimen, consistently, and at the right dose, it works!! If you have been wondering about trying CBD and don't know where to start, come into Your CBD Store for a free personalized consultation and product sampling so you can find the right CBD for you!

Here is "Your CBD Checklist" You Can Use When Selecting CBD For Yourself:

- 1) Third-Party Lab Testing (Independent Verification Of Contents)
- 2) Usda-Certified Organic Hemp Farm Sourced (Eliminating Pesticides)
- 3) Co² Extraction (Eliminating Toxic Solvents & Generating Highest Quality CBD)
- 4) MCT Carrier Oil (Most Effective)
- 5) CBD Product Concentrations Per Dose (Amount of CBD Per Bottle)
- 6) Potency (Identifying Product Type: Full Spectrum, Broad Spectrum, or Isolate CBD)
- 7) QR Code (To Easily Find Lab Reports)
- 8) Labeling (Look For Full Transparency)
- 9) Avoiding Sweeping Health Claims (FDA Regulations Prohibit)
- 10) Trusted, Experienced Sources (Look For Award-Winning Products People Are Recommending)



VARIOUS PRODUCTS AVAILABLE: Both stores sell SunMed products exclusively which is a high-quality product line. All SunMed products are all third-party tested.

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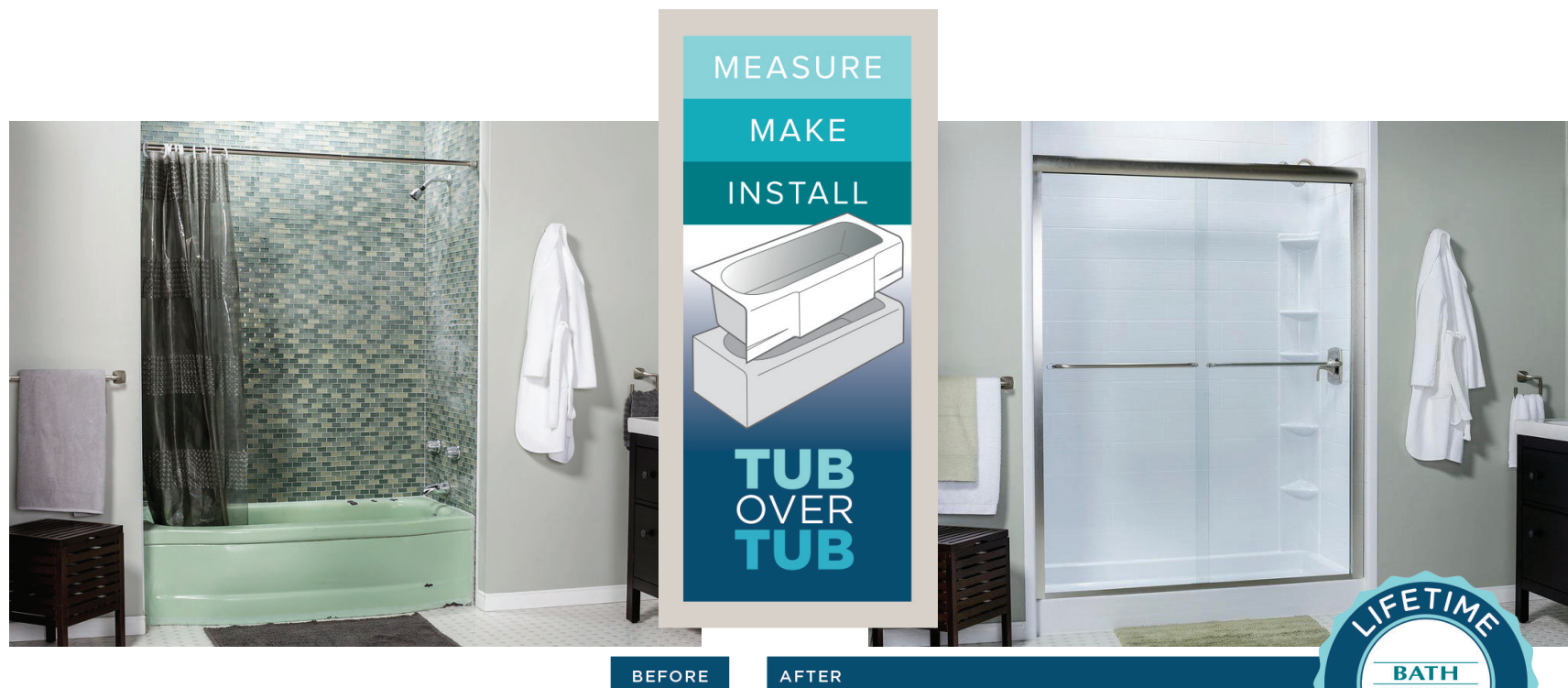
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2019 KEY STATISTICS

OFFENSE

Pos	Name	Age	G	PA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	CS	BB	SO	BA	OBP	SLG	OPS
3B	Rafael Devers	22	156	702	647	129	201	54	4	32	115	8	8	48	119	0.311	0.361	0.555	0.916
SS	Xander Bogaerts	26	155	698	614	110	190	52	0	33	117	4	2	76	122	0.309	0.384	0.555	0.939
DH	J.D. Martinez	31	146	657	575	98	175	33	2	36	105	2	0	72	138	0.304	0.383	0.557	0.939
RF	Mookie Betts	26	150	706	597	135	176	40	5	29	80	16	3	97	101	0.295	0.391	0.524	0.915
C	Christian Vazquez	28	138	521	482	66	133	26	1	23	72	4	2	33	101	0.276	0.32	0.477	0.798
LF	Andrew Benintendi	24	138	615	541	72	144	40	5	13	68	10	3	59	140	0.266	0.343	0.431	0.774
IF	Michael Chavis	23	95	382	347	46	88	10	1	18	58	2	1	31	127	0.254	0.322	0.444	0.766
1B	Mitch Moreland	33	91	335	298	48	75	17	1	19	58	1	0	34	74	0.252	0.328	0.507	0.835
CF	Jackie Bradley Jr.	29	147	567	494	69	111	28	3	21	62	8	6	56	155	0.225	0.317	0.421	0.738



PITCHING

Pos	Name	Age	W	L	W-L%	ERA	G	GS	GF	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	HR	BB	IBB	SO	HBP	WHIP
SP	Eduardo Rodriguez	26	19	6	0.76	3.81	34	34	0	0	0	0	203.1	195	88	86	24	75	2	213	7	1.328
SP	Rick Porcello	30	14	12	0.538	5.52	32	32	0	0	0	0	174.1	198	114	107	31	45	2	143	6	1.394
SP	Chris Sale	30	6	11	0.353	4.4	25	25	0	1	1	0	147.1	123	80	72	24	37	0	218	13	1.086
SP	David Price	33	7	5	0.583	4.28	22	22	0	0	0	0	107.1	109	57	51	15	32	0	128	3	1.314
SP	Nathan Eovaldi	29	2	1	0.667	5.99	23	12	2	0	0	0	67.2	72	46	45	16	35	0	70	3	1.581
CL	Brandon Workman	30	10	1	0.909	1.88	73	0	30	0	0	16	71.2	29	18	15	1	45	4	104	2	1.033
RP	Marcus Walden	30	9	2	0.818	3.81	70	0	8	0	0	2	78	61	38	33	6	32	1	76	5	1.192
RP	Matt Barnes	29	5	4	0.556	3.78	70	0	14	0	0	4	64.1	51	29	27	8	38	2	110	2	1.383
RP	Ryan Brasier	31	2	4	0.333	4.85	62	0	15	0	0	7	55.2	51	33	30	9	21	1	61	3	1.293
RP	Colten Brewer	26	1	2	0.333	4.12	58	0	8	0	0	0	54.2	59	26	25	6	34	1	52	2	1.701



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9 KEYS TO RED SOX SUCCESS

Around the Horn

Bill Burt



The Red Sox admittedly have little room for error in this 60-game season, which begins for them against the Baltimore Orioles on July 24 at Fenway Park. But

they do have a chance to make run over nine weeks, instead of six months, of baseball.

We go around the horn, looking at nine keys for Red Sox successes in 2020:

1. FAST, FAST START

Yes, it said, “fast, fast” start. The Red Sox can really make a run at this, but the only thing that could ruin their chances would be a slow start, say 8-12 through 20 games. The 2020 Red Sox have a lineup to ignite this team and get things rolling early. That is asking

a lot when most seasons begin with pitchers ahead of hitters. Well, that can’t happen at Fenway Park. If the Red Sox are 12-8 through 20 games, or better, they will set themselves up for a big run in late August and September.

2. JBJ BREAKOUT SEASON

Is this going to be the season? Is this when Jackie Bradley Jr. takes off the “.236” shackles and moves closer to the power-hitting outfielder role he has shown in spurts? Remember the 2018 ALCS over the Astros when he had only three hits in 16 at bats? Well, he won the series MVP because his two homers and double were the key hits in three straight wins after an opening game loss. He has shown, albeit with small samples, the ability to carry the team with his bat while providing highlight film play on defense. Is this his year? A .275 season with 25 home runs would place him in a different category. He showed



PAUL BILODEAU/Staff file photo

Boston Red Sox center fielder Jackie Bradley Jr. (19) celebrates his home run, tying the game, in the eighth inning during Game 3 of the World Series at Dodgers Stadium in Los Angeles.



Bill Burt says Red Sox fans are going to like what they see out of Kevin Pillar, who signed a one-year deal adding depth and toughness to Sox outfield and roster.



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signs of more discipline at the plate this spring before spring training was canceled.

3. PILLAR = MILLAR

You are going to love Kevin Pillar. He rarely smiles. But he always hustles. He plays great defense in the outfield. He is very durable, averaging 153 games the last five seasons. While he doesn't have Kevin Millar's personality, he has Millar's grit. Pillar has averaged 17 homers while hitting .255 over the last three seasons. Like Dustin Pedroia, he plays with a chip on his shoulder and feels like he has never earned the respect he deserves. At 31, he's on a one-year deal. Expect a very good year, allowing the Red Sox some depth in the outfield.

4. E-ROD EARLY RETURN

Of the off-season issues the Red Sox had, losing Eduardo Rodriguez to COVID-19 was a semi-big hit. He's their ace. He didn't miss a start last year and struck out one batter per inning en route to a 19-6 record. The Red Sox need a win out of E-Rod at least three of every four starts. They don't have the talent or depth to make up for a slow or choppy start of the season from him. He was outstanding in spring training, which was a good sign, working on his control.

5. VERDUGO FIT

Another player with an attitude, Alex Verdugo has the



Boston Red Sox pitcher Nathan Eovaldi during Game 3 of the 2018 World Series at Dodgers Stadium in Los Angeles. According to Bill Burt the Red Sox must get an elite season out of him if they are to chase a postseason berth.

chance of being with the Red Sox for a long time. While he only has 158 games of experience, the 24-year-old Arizona native is not afraid of anything, other than being injured. He hit .294 with 12 homers and 44 RBI in 106 games before calling it a season due to a back injury, which reportedly has finally healed. He has discipline at the plate beyond his years and is another in a long list of 20 home run hitters (over a 162-game average) on this team. He plays hard and needs to stay on the field. With Pillar and Verdugo, the Sox have options in the

outfield if Andrew Benintendi or Jackie Bradley Jr. don't meet expectations.

6. AUGUST DEADLINE

This could be the Red Sox best friend, the MLB trade deadline on Aug. 31. If the Red Sox are in the running, they will be able to add a starting pitcher or everyday player, to make a run at a post-season spot and maybe a championship. There will be players available, probably some All-Star caliber ones, with the sprint to the

finish in September. If there is a player not performing to expectations (Beintendi, JBJ, etc.), they could be part of the trade bait.

7. DEVERS CLIMBING

A big season, really 60 games, for the Red Sox could happen if Rafael Devers is in the discussion for MVP. There is enough offense around him to pick up some slack, but if Devers can hit 15 homers with 40 RBI, the Red Sox will probably be in the thick of a post-season run. The Sox need Devers,

at No. 3 in the lineup, to pick up where he left off in 2019. That would allow Xander Bogaerts and J.D. Martinez, batting second and fourth respectively, or fourth and fifth, to do heavy damage.

8. 'SURPRISE' STARTER

The Red Sox can not make any kind of run without a third or fourth starter, beyond E-Rod and Nathan Eovaldi, doing better than expected. We're not saying the Red Sox need to match the Tampa Bay Rays rotation, but they need a starter, say Brian Johnson, who can go 4-3 through 10 or so starts. Xander Bogaerts was asked about the pitching rotation's lack of depth, and his answer was, "every year someone surprises us." Well, somebody better surprise us, at least before the trade deadline.

9. EOVALDI, MARTINEZ HEALTH

The Red Sox are counting on two key, productive players in 2020 -- starter Nathan Eovaldi and designated hitter J.D. Martinez. Both are proven commodities ... when healthy. You can pretty much pencil in productive seasons from this duo. Expect the Red Sox to "protect" both -- Eovaldi in terms of pitch counts and Martinez not playing in the field. The Red Sox have a few young players they are expecting to up their games. These guys just need to stay healthy and we can pretty much guarantee positive results.

You can email Bill Burt at bburt@eagletribune.com.

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Sox under-the-radar things to watch



AP file photo/John Minchillo

Michael Chavis was one of the best prospects in Boston's farm system. But as a natural third baseman, he's blocked by Rafael Devers, and his defense at second base left a lot to be desired. It will be interesting watching him bounce around a bit, probably between first base and second base.

Bill Burt



things to watch:

The Red Sox have a lot of ifs, ands or buts this shortened season.

Here are five under-the-radar

Sox are not sold on Chavis' defense. He could be moved around a bit, between first and second base based on his production and Mitch Moreland's health. Chavis looked more comfortable at first base in 2019.

3. CLOSERS' EXPERIMENT

When you have two quarterbacks playing, some football sage said, you really have none. Well, the back end of the Red Sox rotation appears to have two relievers, Brandon Workman and Matt Barnes, with the talent and pedigree to actually share the position in 2020. Workman more than earned the role at 10-1 with 16 saves. But Barnes, who struck out 110 batters in 64-plus innings, has the swing-and-miss stuff you want in a closer. The one issue last year was Barnes tied for the lead in the majors with eight blown saves compared to Workman's six. Anyway, both appear to have the ability, on a good team, to assume that role when needed. And in this different season, with few off days, two closers might actually be a preference.

1. CHAVIS' OFFENSE

As a rookie, Michael Chavis hit 18 homers with 55 RBI. Pretty good. But upon a closer view, played out over 162 games rather than the 95 he played, that equates to 33 homers and 99 RBI. For a rookie, that's not good. That's very good. The 2014 first round pick out of high school appears ready to assume a bigger role than a "No. 7 plug" hitter. We might be talking a future No. 3 through No. 5 hitter, with 40-plus homers and 110-plus RBI a legitimate expectation. Don't sleep on Chavis' bat in 2020.

2. CHAVIS' DEFENSE

Chavis' defense is another thing altogether. It needs work. The fact the Red Sox added Jose Peraza (more on him later), a bona fide three-year starter with the Cincinnati Reds, on a one-year free agent deal, tells us the Red

briefing two weeks ago that every spring some pitcher "surprises" everyone. Well, there had better be one, or maybe two, over the next month. And who is best to possibly earn that moniker? How about a guy who was released by the "lowly" Detroit Tigers last week, Zack Godley. With Collin McHugh calling it a season, via text with manager Ron Roenicke, Godley and his 81 career starts, make him a candidate to "surprise" some people. More of a fifth starter option, if Godley can return to 2018 form, when he was 15-11, he can add value as Red Sox figure out the starting rotation over the next month. Stay tuned..

5. PERAZA'S PRESENCE

Red Sox new second baseman Jose Peraza is a lot like Kevin Pillar. Very solid. A former shortstop, he is better suited defensively at second base, a big upgrade over Chavis. But he also has steady production as a back-of-the-lineup hitter, toting a .275 average since being a starter in the middle of the 2016 season with the Reds. Peraza gives the Red Sox that "dull" stability and consistency needed with so many potential good bats in this lineup. Only 26, he could be a nice surprise during this 60-game sprint.

4. GODLEY AS 'SURPRISE'

Xander Bogaerts mentioned during a media



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2020 RED SOX SCHEDULE

JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 7:30 BAL	25 1:35 BAL
26 1:35 BAL	27 7:30 NYM	28 7:30 NYM	29 7:10 NYM	30 7:15 NYM	31 7:05 NYM	

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 7:15 NYY
2 7:08 NYY	3	4 6:40 TB	5 6:40 TB	6	7 7:30 TOR	8 7:30 TOR
9 1:35 TOR	10 7:30 TB	11 7:30 TB	12 7:30 TB	13 4:30 TB	14 7:05 NYY	15 7:15 NYY
16 7:08 NYY	17 7:05 NYY	18 7:30 PHI	19 7:30 PHI	20 7:05 BAL	21 7:05 BAL	22 7:05 BAL
23 1:05 BAL	24	25 6:37 TOR	26 6:37 TOR	27 6:37 TOR	28 7:30 WSH	29 7:30 WSH
30 1:35 WSH	31 7:30 ATL					

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 7:30 ATL	2 7:30 ATL	3 7:30 TOR	4 7:30 TOR	5 7:30 TOR
6 1:35 TOR	7	8 7:05 PHI	9 4:05 PHI	10 6:40 TB	11 6:40 TB	12 6:40 TB
13 1:10 TB	14 6:40 MIA	15 6:40 MIA	16 6:40 MIA	17	18 7:30 NYY	19 7:30 NYY
20 1:35 NYY	21	22 7:30 BAL	23 7:30 BAL	24 7:30 BAL	25 7:10 ATL	26 7:10 ATL
27 3:10 ATL	28	29	30			

■ HOME GAMES □ AWAY GAMES

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2021 RED SOX SCHEDULE

APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 BAL	2	3 BAL
4 BAL	5 TB	6 TB	7 TB	8 BAL	9	10 BAL
11 BAL	12 MIN	13 MIN	14 MIN	15 MIN	16 CWS	17 CWS
18 CWS	19 CWS	20 TOR	21 TOR	22 SEA	23 SEA	24 SEA
25 SEA	26	27 NYM	28 NYM	29 TEX	30 TEX	

MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 TEX
2 TEX	3	4 DET	5 DET	6 DET	7 BAL	8 BAL
9 BAL	10 BAL	11 OAK	12 OAK	13 OAK	14 LAA	15 LAA
16 LAA	17	18 TOR	19 TOR	20 TOR	21 PHI	22 PHI
23 PHI	24	25 ATL	26 ATL	27	28 MIA	29 MIA
30 MIA	31 HOU					

JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 HOU	2 HOU	3 HOU	4 NYY	5 NYY
6 NYY	7	8 HOU	9 HOU	10 HOU	11 TOR	12 TOR
13 TOR	14 TOR	15 ATL	16 ATL	17	18 KC	19 KC
20 KC	21	22 TB	23 TB	24 TB	25 NYY	26 NYY
27 NYY	28 KC	29 KC	30 KC			

JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 KC	2 OAK	3 OAK
4 OAK	5 LAA	6 LAA	7 LAA	8	9 PHI	10 PHI
11 PHI	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 TB	2	3 DET	4 DET	5 DET	6 TOR	7 TOR
8 TOR	9	10 TB	11 TB	12 TB	13 BAL	14 BAL
15 BAL	16	17 NYY	18 NYY	19	20 TEX	21 TEX
22 TEX	23	24 MIN	25 MIN	26 MIN	27 CLE	28 CLE
29 CLE	30 TB	31 TB				

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 TB	2 TB	3 CLE	4 CLE
5 CLE	6 TB	7 TB	8 TB	9	10 CWS	11 CWS
12 CWS	13 SEA	14 SEA	15 SEA	16	17 BAL	18 BAL
19 BAL	20	21 NYM	22 NYM	23	24 NYY	25 NYY
26 NYY	27	28 BAL	29 BAL	30 BAL	1 WSH	2 WSH
3 WSH						

■ HOME GAMES □ AWAY GAMES

LINEUP

■ Continued from Page S10

crew: Rich Gedman, Mike Easler, Dwight Evans and Jim Rice.

But this lineup has nine guys — 10 if you count newly acquired Alex Verdugo — that could’ve hit 20 homers apiece in a 162-game season.

Every one of them — Andrew Benintendi, Rafael Devers, J.D. Martinez, Xander Bogaerts, Mitch Moreland, Michael Chavis, Kevin Pillar, Christian Vazquez and Jackie Bradley — has

that kind of pop.

In fact, last year, eight guys had 18 or more homers, with Benintendi at 13 in a down year.

The Red Sox, sans Betts, can produce runs as well as any team in the American League.

Having Pillar, a well-proven starter, as the fourth outfielder, playing five

games a week, puts the Red Sox in a special category offensively.

You can’t hit your way to a title over 162 games. But you can do it for 60 games.

The Red Sox pitching is a question mark, particularly the starters after Rodriguez and Eovaldi. It is average at best.

But if Rodriguez, upon his

return, and Eovaldi can get off of to semi-dominating starts through August, as they appeared to look in early spring training, it will force Sox baseball operations president Chaim Bloom to get that missing link/very good starter to make the Red Sox dangerous in September and possibly October.

But if Rodriguez, upon his return, and Eovaldi can get off of to semi-dominating starts through August, as they appeared to look in early spring training, it will force Sox baseball operations president Chaim Bloom to get that missing link/very good starter to make the Red Sox dangerous in September and possibly October.

and should happen.

The Red Sox are not built for 2021, 2022 and 2023. They will need some luck in trades and free agent acquisitions to match up with the well stocked Yankees.

But 2020, with several players nearing the end of their contracts and a short schedule, could make a lot of them rich.

The Red Sox might not be the best team in baseball. In fact, they aren’t.

But they picked a good year where that might not matter as much.

You can email Bill Burt at bburt@eagletribune.com.



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LOOK AT THESE PRICES! THEY'RE UNBELIEVABLE!

2020 MITSUBISHI MIRAGE ES FWD

STK# M5755



7" Display
audioHD radio
with bluetooth
and USB port,
remote keyless
entry, back up
camera

MSRP\$17,335
Rebates & Discounts.....-\$2,966

MICHAUD PRICE

\$14,369

Lease For
\$129/mo.
24 mo., 10K mi/yr

\$3,999 down. Tax, Title, reg. and fees extra. In stock vehicles only.
See dealer for complete details. Offer Expires 7/1/2020

2020 MITSUBISHI MIRAGE ES FWD

STK# M5863



Keyless entry,
backup camera,
power locks &
windows

MSRP\$16,565
Rebates & Discounts.....-\$4,566

MICHAUD PRICE

\$11,999

Lease For
\$99/mo.
24 mo., 10K mi/yr

\$3,999 down. Tax, Title, reg. and fees extra. In stock vehicles only.
See dealer for complete details. Offer Expires 7/1/2020

2020 MITSUBISHI SPORT ES AWC

STK# M5760



Keyless entry,
backup camera,
7" display audio,
bluetooth, steering
wheel audio and
phone control,
USB port, power
locks & windows,
heated side mirrors

MSRP\$25,830
Rebates & Discounts.....-\$4,277

MICHAUD PRICE

\$21,553

Lease For
\$149/mo.
24 mo., 10K mi/yr

\$3,999 down. Tax, Title, reg. and fees extra. In stock vehicles only.
See dealer for complete details. Offer Expires 7/1/2020

2020 MITSUBISHI ECLIPSE CROSS ES 4WD CVT SPORT UTILITY

STK# M5682



cruise control w/
steering wheel
controls, 7" display
audio w/bluetooth,
USB port, Steering
wheel audio &
phone controls
Backup camera

MSRP\$25,685
Rebates & Discounts.....-\$3,311

MICHAUD PRICE

\$22,374

Lease For
\$169/mo.
24 mo., 10K mi/yr

\$3,999 down. Tax, Title, reg. and fees extra. In stock vehicles only.
See dealer for complete details. Offer Expires 7/1/2020

2020 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER SPORT ES AWD

STK# M5844



Keyless entry, backup
camera, 7" display
audio, bluetooth,
steering wheel audio
and phone control,
USB port, power
locks & windows,
heated side mirrors

MSRP\$28,035
Rebates & Discounts.....-\$24,555

MICHAUD PRICE

\$23,480

Lease For
\$199/mo.
24 mo., 10K mi/yr

\$3,999 down. Tax, Title, reg. and fees extra. In stock vehicles only.
See dealer for complete details. Offer Expires 7/1/2020

MITSUBISHI PHEV SEL

#1 selling
Hybrid
AWD

#B6589



Radio: 8" Smartphone Link Display Audio -inc: 6 speakers, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, SiriusXM satellite radio w/3-month all access trial, HD Radio, Bluetooth wireless technology, front and rear USB ports and steering wheel audio and phone controls w/voice recognition. Blindspot warning

STARTING AT

\$21,997



Over 100
in stock

Pre-owned Vehicles in Stock
Starting at \$7,977



MICHAUD
MITSUBISHI

TAX, TITLE, REG, AND APPLICABLE FEES EXTRA. ALL REBATES TO DEALER, WITH APPROVED CREDIT. PRICING & REBATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE. SEE DEALER FOR DETAILS.
MUST BE SOLD FROM DEALER STOCK.

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