

The Boston Red Sox Thursday, November 21, 2019

*** *The Boston Globe***

Bobby Dalbec among five added to Red Sox 40-man roster

Julian McWilliams

The Red Sox announced Wednesday they added infielders C.J. Chatham and Bobby Dalbec, lefthanders Kyle Hart and Yoan Aybar, and outfielder Marcus Wilson to their 40-man roster.

Dalbec has some serious pop in his bat. He hit 32 homers between Salem and Portland in 2018. He followed that up with 27 homers in 2019 between Portland and Pawtucket. Dalbec made another impression during the Premier12 games despite the United States falling short. Dalbec hit .250 with two homers in 28 at-bats, driving in a team-high eight RBIs. Those numbers were good enough to land Dalbec on the All-World Team by the World Baseball Softball Confederation.

Dalbec struck out 176 times in 2018 and 139 times in 2019, but he has improved in strike zone awareness and it's not far-fetched to project him as a 25-30-homer player in the big leagues. Dalbec profiles as a first baseman and third baseman, however, the Sox have flirted with the idea of getting him reps in the outfield.

Chatham will chase outside the zone but has solid bat-to-ball skills. He hit a combined .298 between Portland and Pawtucket in 2019. Nonetheless, the next step in his development is plate discipline. He had just seven homers in 2019, yet the silver lining might be his 31 homers last year. If he can cut down on chasing pitches, he could have a spike in the power. Chatham won the batting title for the Eastern League last year. He plays up the middle, but the Sox got him some reps in the outfield during the Arizona Fall League.

After the Sox designated Blake Swihart for assignment last season, they acquired Wilson via trade from the Arizona Diamondbacks. The Sox have limited depth in the outfield, so his addition was important. He struggled to begin with in Double A and the team demoted him to Salem before he was called up to Portland in July. He hit .253 in August and will need more seasoning in the minors. He projects as a fourth outfielder.

Aybar was signed as an outfielder in the same draft class as Rafael Devers in 2013, but that didn't pan out. So, in 2018 the Red Sox converted him to a pitcher. Aybar possesses a big arm, topping out at 99 miles per hour in the Arizona Fall League, and in the age of bullpen depth, with chief baseball officer Chaim Bloom at the helm, Aybar could be an option. Had the Red Sox not protected him, they would have likely lost him in the Rule 5 Draft off his arm strength. He's still just 22 years old and hasn't played above Salem.

Hart doesn't throw hard but he owns a three- or four-pitch mix. He works well in a Bloom system that values a reliever who can eat up innings. Hart has performed respectably since being taken in the 19th round by the Sox in 2016, posting a 3.52 ERA between Portland and Pawtucket last year. Hart might be a good option to replace veteran Sox lefthander Brian Johnson.

The Sox didn't protect righthander Eduard Bazarro, who is a likely candidate to be chosen in the Rule 5 Draft. He had a 2.21 ERA in 73½ innings in 2019 with Salem and Portland. The Sox' 40-man roster is now at 39 players.

*** *The Boston Herald***

Bobby Dalbec, C.J. Chatham among five Red Sox added to 40-man roster

Steve Hewitt

The Red Sox on Wednesday added five players — Bobby Dalbec, C.J. Chatham, Kyle Hart, Marcus Wilson and Yoan Aybar — to their major-league roster, chief baseball officer Chaim Bloom announced.

The Sox had until Wednesday's 8 p.m. deadline to add players to their 40-man roster and protect them from next month's Rule 5 draft, where they could be taken by other teams. None of those selected to the big-league roster were particularly surprising.

Dalbec, who made 125 starts between Portland and Pawtucket last season, may be the most major league-ready of the five. The 24-year-old infielder, who is the Sox' No. 2-ranked prospect, led all Sox minor leaguers with 27 homers and 217 total bases in 2019. He also impressed at the recent Premier12 tournament in Japan playing for Team USA.

Dalbec, who made 21 starts at first base last season, could certainly be considered an option at there for the Red Sox next season.

"He's a really good player and we expect him to be a big part of our future, so we look forward to him being with us again in big-league camp and go from there," Red Sox general manager Brian O'Halloran said at last week's GM meetings.

Chatham also split time with Portland and Pawtucket last year, making 93 starts at shortstop and producing 31 doubles and a .298 average. He joined Dalbec on Team USA for the Premier12.

Hart was also selected from Pawtucket after the left-hander made 15 starts there with a 3.86 ERA.

Wilson, who came to the Red Sox from Arizona in last year's Blake Swihart trade, was taken from Portland. The right-handed hitting outfielder hit .273 with 16 homers and 51 RBI between High-A Salem and Portland.

Aybar, a left-handed reliever, made 44 appearances between Single-A Greenville and High-A Salem, posting a 4.61 ERA and 70 strikeouts.

The Red Sox now have 39 players on their 40-man roster:

PITCHERS (23): Yoan Aybar, Matt Barnes, Ryan Brasier, Colten Brewer, Nathan Eovaldi, Kyle Hart, Heath Hembree, Darwinzon Hernandez, Brian Johnson, Trevor Kelley, Travis Lakins, Josh Osich, Bobby Poyner, David Price, Denyi Reyes, Eduardo Rodriguez, Chris Sale, Mike Shawarzyn, Josh Taylor, Hector Velázquez, Marcus Walden, Ryan Weber, Brandon Workman

CATCHERS (2): Sandy León, Christian Vázquez

INFELDERS (9): Xander Bogaerts, C.J. Chatham, Michael Chavis, Bobby Dalbec, Rafael Devers, Marco Hernández, Tzu-Wei Lin, Dustin Pedroia, Sam Travis

OUTFIELDERS (5): Andrew Benintendi, Mookie Betts, Jackie Bradley Jr., J.D. Martinez, Marcus Wilson

*** *MassLive.com***

Boston Red Sox roster moves: Bobby Dalbec, C.J. Chatham among 5 players added to 40-man roster

Chris Cutillo

The Red Sox added five players -- infielders Bobby Dalbec and C.J. Chatham, left-handed pitchers Kyle Hart and Yoan Aybar and outfielder Marcus Wilson -- to their 40-man roster Wednesday, according to a team announcement.

The moves protect all five players from next month's Rule 5 draft, ensuring other clubs can't poach them from the organization. Boston made no trades or cuts before the 8 p.m. deadline to protect players and its 40-man roster now sits at 39 players.

Dalbec (No. 2), Chatham (No. 9), Wilson (No. 18), Hart (No. 28) and Aybar (No. 30) are all ranked among Boston's top 30 prospects, according to MLB.com. Right-handed pitcher Eduard Bazarzo (No. 26) was the only top 30 prospect to go unprotected and is now a candidate to be taken in the Rule 5 draft.

Dalbec, who has experience at both corner infield spots, is a candidate for the major league roster in 2020 while Chatham, who is blocked at shortstop by Xander Bogaerts, could shift to another position or be used as trade bait. Wilson, 23, was acquired from the Diamondbacks in the trade that sent Blake Swihart to Arizona in April. Hart, a former 19th-round pick, provides rotation depth after a solid season at Portland and Pawtucket in 2019.

Aybar is the farthest from the majors among the players added to the roster. The 22-year-old has not reached higher than High-A.

The most notable players who went unprotected were Bazarzo, first basemen Pedro Castellanos and Josh Ockimey, and pitcher Jonathan Diaz. SoxProspects.com ranks five unprotected players among its top 60 prospects: Castellanos (No. 21), Bazarzo (No. 25), Diaz (No. 38), Ockimey (No. 45) and left-hander Emmanuel De Jesus (No. 55).

*** *RedSox.com***

Dalbec among 5 added to Red Sox 40-man

Ian Browne

BOSTON -- In advance of Wednesday's 8 p.m. deadline for teams to protect players for the upcoming Rule 5 Draft, the Red Sox added their top power-hitting prospect to the 40-man roster in corner infielder Bobby Dalbec.

The right-handed hitter could have a shot to make his MLB debut and play a meaningful role in 2020, depending on how the offseason shakes out.

Dalbec spent most of last season at Double-A Portland but moved to Triple-A Pawtucket for the final 30 games. In 135 games overall, he belted 27 homers with an .816 OPS. The Sox selected Dalbec -- a college star at Arizona -- in the fourth round of the 2016 Draft.

Though Rafael Devers has locked down third base in Boston for the foreseeable future, Dalbec has a shot to earn playing time at first base, a position that is still up for grabs heading into next season.

Dalbec is ranked No. 2 among Red Sox prospects by MLB Pipeline. The Sox also added No. 9 prospect C.J. Chatham (infielder), No. 18 prospect Marcus Wilson (outfielder), No. 28 prospect Kyle Hart (lefty starter) and No. 30 prospect Yoan Aybar (lefty reliever) to the 40-man roster.

Righty Eduardo Bazarzo (No. 26) is the only player from Boston's Top 30 prospects who was left unprotected.

Wednesday was a significant roster day throughout MLB, as teams prepared for the Rule 5 Draft, which will take place at the Winter Meetings in San Diego on Thursday, Dec. 12.

Players first signed at age 18 need to be added to 40-man rosters within five seasons or they become eligible to be drafted by other organizations through the Rule 5 process. Players signed at 19 years or older have to be protected within four seasons. Clubs pay \$100,000 to select a player in the Major League phase of the Rule 5 Draft. If that player doesn't stay on the 25-man roster for the full season, he must be offered back to his former team for \$50,000.

For this year, that means an international or high school Draft pick signed in 2015 -- assuming he was 18 or younger as of June 8 of that year -- has to be protected. A college player taken in the '16 Draft is in the same position.

Chatham is a middle infielder who could be ready to help the Red Sox soon. His progress bears watching, as second base continues to be a spot of limbo with Dustin Pedroia still a huge question mark and Brock Holt now a free agent. Chatham also has some experience in left field. The right-handed batter led Red Sox Minor Leaguers with 31 doubles while hitting .298 (130-for-436) with five homers, making 93 starts at shortstop and 12 at second base.

Wilson was the player Boston acquired from Arizona in the trade for Blake Swihart. Not only does Wilson play all three outfield spots, but he has some power and gives the Red Sox depth in the upper Minors at a spot they've lacked in the past few years. The right-handed hitter produced a .273 average with 16 homers, 10 stolen bases, and 51 RBIs, while making 100 starts in the outfield in a season split between Class A and Double-A.

Solid though not spectacular, the 27-year-old Hart made 27 appearances (24 starts) between Portland and Pawtucket in 2019, going 12-13 with a 3.52 ERA (61 ER/156.0 IP). He led Red Sox Minor Leaguers in wins, innings, and complete games (two), and ranked second in strikeouts (140). The left-hander threw a shutout in his Triple-A debut on May 30 vs. Lehigh Valley and threw 6 2/3 innings in Portland's combined no-hitter on April 25 at Binghamton.

The 22-year-old Aybar made 44 relief appearances between Class-A Greenville and Class A Advanced Salem this season, posting a 4.61 ERA (29 ER/56.2 IP) with 70 strikeouts and a .176 opponent batting average (36-for-205).

Boston's roster is now at 39, and is as follows:

PITCHERS (23): Yoan Aybar, Matt Barnes, Ryan Brasier, Colten Brewer, Nathan Eovaldi, Kyle Hart, Heath Hembree, Darwinzon Hernandez, Brian Johnson, Trevor Kelley, Travis Lakins, Josh Osich, Bobby Poyner, David Price, Denyi Reyes, Eduardo Rodriguez, Chris Sale, Mike Shawarzyn, Josh Taylor, Hector Velázquez, Marcus Walden, Ryan Weber, Brandon Workman

CATCHERS (2): Sandy León, Christian Vázquez

INFELDERS (9): Xander Bogaerts, C.J. Chatham, Michael Chavis, Bobby Dalbec, Rafael Devers, Marco Hernández, Tzu-Wei Lin, Dustin Pedroia, Sam Travis

OUTFIELDERS (5): Andrew Benintendi, Mookie Betts, Jackie Bradley Jr., J.D. Martinez, Marcus Wilson

*** *WEEI.com***

How 5 Red Sox minor-leaguers' lives changed Wednesday night

Rob Bradford

The Red Sox adjusted their roster Wednesday night. In the process, five minor-leaguers had their lives significantly altered, as well.

The Sox added first baseman Bobby Dalbec, infielder C.J. Chatham, outfielder Marcus Wilson, and pitchers Kyle Hart and Yoan Aybar to their 40-man roster, leaving just one spot still open. Dalbec, Chatham and Wilson were seemingly locks, with Hart potentially representing a depth starter and Aybar serving as an intriguing reliever.

The most notable omission was pitcher Eduard Bazarzo, leaving the 24-year-old as a prime candidate to be selected in the Rule 5 draft. The righty totaled a 2.78 ERA in 21 relief outings for Double-A Portland last season.

For the five making the cut, it means more than just a step closer to the majors.

Here are some of the perks that getting placed on the 40-man roster allow for:

- As of Opening Day, these players will now get at least the major league minimum if in the big leagues and the minimum first-year minor-league roster salary if in the minors. This year the major league minimum is \$563,500 and the minor-league first-year roster salary is \$46,000. If a first-year player gets called up and then sent back down, his salary would then be \$91,800. (Those in their first year in Triple-A and not on the 40-man roster make \$2,150 a month before dues and taxes.)

- The players now are eligible to get major league health insurance and life insurance as of major league Opening Day, 2020.

- If a player is optioned to the minors they will be paid until the end of the major league season as opposed to the end of the minor league season.

This is from the Red Sox' press release Wednesday night:

Chatham, 24, split the 2019 season between Portland and Pawtucket and was named an Eastern League Post-Season All-Star. The right-handed batter led Red Sox minor leaguers with 31 doubles while hitting .298 (130-for-436) with five home runs, making 93 starts at shortstop and 12 at second base. Following the regular season, Chatham played for Peoria in the Arizona Fall League and was selected to the Fall Stars Game, then joined Team USA for the WBSC Premier12 tournament. Selected by Boston in the second round of the 2016 June Draft, Chatham has hit .298 (305-for-1,024) with 57 doubles, 14 home runs, and 124 RBI in 266 minor league games.

Dalbec, 24, led Red Sox minor leaguers in 2019 with 27 home runs and 217 total bases, ranking second among that group with 73 RBI, 48 extra-base hits, and 73 walks. He hit .239 (113-for-472) with an .816 OPS between Portland and Pawtucket, making 104 starts at third base and 21 at first base. Selected as both a Mid-Season and Post-Season All-Star in the Eastern League, he joined Chatham on Team USA in the WBSC Premier12 tournament following the regular season. Selected by Boston in the fourth round of the 2016 June Draft, Dalbec has hit .261 (113-for-1,370) with 83 doubles, 79 home runs, and 256 RBI in 383 minor league games.

Hart, 27, made 27 appearances (24 starts) between Portland and Pawtucket in 2019, going 12-13 with a 3.52 ERA (61 ER/156.0 IP). He led Red Sox minor leaguers in wins, innings, and complete games (2), and ranked second in strikeouts (140). The left-hander threw a 9.0-inning shutout in his Triple-A debut on May 30 vs. Lehigh Valley and threw 6.2 innings in Portland's combined no-hitter on April 25 at Binghamton. He posted a 3.86 ERA (43 ER/100.1 IP) for Pawtucket, allowing three earned runs or fewer in 13 of his 15 starts. Selected by Boston in the 19th round of the 2016 June Draft, Hart is 25-29 with a 3.13 ERA (147 ER/423.1 IP) in 77 minor league games (71 starts).

Wilson, 23, spent the majority of 2019 within the Red Sox organization after being acquired from Arizona in exchange for Blake Swihart and international amateur signing bonus pool space. In 107 games between High-A Salem and Double-A Portland, the right-handed batter hit .273 (96-for-352) with 16 home runs, 10 stolen bases, and 51 RBI while making 100 starts in the outfield. Following the regular season, he played in

eight games for Peoria in the Arizona Fall League, batting .333 (10-for-30) with eight RBI. Selected by Arizona in the second round of the 2014 June Draft, Wilson has hit .258 (463-for-1,794) with 40 home runs and 224 RBI in 498 minor league games.

Aybar, 22, made 44 relief appearances between Single-A Greenville and High-A Salem this season, posting a 4.61 ERA (29 ER/56.2 IP) with 70 strikeouts and a .176 opponent batting average (36-for-205). From June 28 through the end of 2019, the left-hander posted a 2.19 ERA (6 ER/24.2 IP) with a 1.09 WHIP. Aybar was signed by the Red Sox in August 2013, beginning his career as an outfielder and converting to a relief pitcher prior to the 2018 season. In 61 career pitching appearances, Aybar is 3-4 with a 4.45 ERA (42 ER/85.0 IP) and a .196 opponent batting average (61-for-312), having allowed only one home run to his 378 batters faced.

BOSTON RED SOX 40-MAN ROSTER (39)

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*** *NBC Sports Boston***

Mookie Betts and the Red Sox have four options to weigh this winter

John Tomase

The Red Sox must determine how to proceed with Mookie Betts this winter, and fast.

If they're going to keep the former MVP, the sooner they know it the better, because fitting his \$30 million into a \$208 payroll will not only take some serious creativity, it will leave them rifling through clearance racks to fill the rest of the roster.

We are all aware of their four possible paths: trade Betts now, trade him by July 31, let him play out the season and become a free agent, or sign him to an extension.

Some of those possibilities feel more likely than others, which is why we're here to apply some odds.

1. Trade him now: 55 percent

This still feels like the most probable course of action, given Betts' off-stated desire to reach free agency and the franchise's equivalent determination to get something for him before he leaves. Better to rip off that Band-Aid now, even if it means losing a little leg hair in the process.

Any team acquiring Betts needs to be able to fit his salary into its payroll, and that's more easily accomplished earlier in the offseason, especially since there's little chance the Red Sox contribute anything towards his salary. The optics of trading Betts are bad enough — paying someone else to take him would be inexcusable.

2. Trade him in July: 15 percent

There's some appeal to this approach, which gives the Red Sox a chance to make one final run with their Gold Glove- and Silver Slugger-winning right fielder, especially if the offers this winter prove underwhelming.

But there's one obvious flaw — what if July 31 arrives and the Red Sox find themselves in contention? At last year's trade deadline, for instance, a staggering 11 National League teams owned between 50 and 57 wins. Six of them could make legitimate cases for the wild card.

Good luck justifying a trade of your best player in that scenario, even if it's the right long-term move. Better to deal him now before putting new boss Chaim Bloom in that no-win situation.

3. Let him play out season: 20 percent

Former GM Theo Epstein used to bristle at the concept of trading a player before he could "walk away for nothing" by noting that a final season of All-Star production carries considerable value.

If the Red Sox can figure out how to absorb Betts' 2020 salary — perhaps by finding a taker for David Price and the \$96 million remaining on his deal — there are worse problems to have than a lineup built around Betts, Rafael Devers, Xander Bogaerts, and J.D. Martinez.

If Chris Sale is healthy, that's a team that could win it all and then let whatever happens happen with Betts.

4. Extend him: 10 percent

It's sad that this feels like the least likely outcome, but we're just keeping it real.

There are two impediments to a long-term extension. One is Betts's aforementioned desire to hit the market and see what he's worth. The other is the very legitimate queasiness ownership might feel about extending anyone for more than 10 years.

That said, if Betts came to them with a reasonable number — say, 12 years and \$340 million, slotting him between Bryce Harper and Mike Trout — there'd definitely be some in ownership pushing to get his signature to lock in the franchise cornerstone.

It doesn't feel like it's going to come to that, though, unless Betts experiences a change of heart about reaching free agency.

*** *Bostonsportsjournal.com***

Red Sox make some roster additions

Sean McAdam

In preparation for next month's Rule 5 draft on the final day of the winter meetings, the Red Sox added five players to their 40-man roster on Wednesday, precluding them from being exposed to other teams.

As a basic guideline, players are eligible to be selected in the Rule 5 draft if they signed at 18 or younger and have been in the organization for five years. Players who signed at 19 or older need to be protected after four years.

Teams selecting players in the Rule 5 draft must keep them on the 40-man roster (or I.L.) for the entire season, or offer them back to the organization from which they were drafted.

The Sox began the day with 34 players on their 40-man roster. Added to the roster were:

INF Bobby Dalbec

INF C.J. Chatham

OF Marcus Wilson
LHP Kyle Hart
LHP Yoan Aybar

Dalbec is perhaps the organization's best power prospect, having split time between Double-A Portland and Triple-A Pawtucket in 2019. He will presumably get a good look in spring training and perhaps be in contention for playing time at first base, now that he's been transitioned over from third with that position capably manned by Rafael Devers for the foreseeable future.

Chatham is a shortstop by trade, but he, too, is currently blocked at the major league level, with Xander Bogaerts having signed a six-year contract extension last April. Chatham has played some second base, though it's unlikely he has a chance to break with the big league team, having played just 20 games above Double A. He has, however, shown a good hit tool at every level of play.

Wilson was obtained last spring in the trade that sent catcher Blake Swihart to Arizona. At 23, he could be in line for a bench role in the big leagues. Beyond J.D. Martinez and Brock Holt, the Sox have not carried a legitimate fourth outfielder on the roster for the past two seasons.

Hart is a late bloomer at 27. He was 9-7 in 18 appearances (15 starts) with Pawtucket last year with a 3.86 ERA and 1.27 WHIP. He doesn't overpower hitters with a fastball that tops out at 88 mph or so, but he can command four pitches.

Aybar was converted from the outfield two years ago and is still raw, but looked explosive at times while pitching in the Arizona Fall League last month.

A number of the organization's top prospects — including Triston Casas, Jarren Duran, Bryan Mata, Jay Groome and Tanner Houck — are not yet eligible to be selected, and thus, didn't warrant protection by being added to the 40-man roster.

Among the names not added — and thus, now unprotected — include:

1B Josh Ockimey
RHP Edward Bazarzo

Ockimey has shown good power at the upper reaches of the minor leagues (25 homers at Pawtucket), but has also struggled mightily to make consistent contact (139 strikeouts in 377 at-bats) and hit just .100 against lefthanded pitching last season.

Meanwhile, Bazarzo has been impressive at times out of the bullpen, but apparently, having spent only the second half of last season at Double-A, the Red Sox are confident that it would constitute too big a jump to the big leagues to worry about losing him.

*** *The Athletic***

Looking past Mookie: Could Chris Sale, David Price, or J.D. Martinez be trade chips as Sox trim budget?

Jen McCaffrey

As the offseason grinds along, so much of the discussion has focused on Red Sox owner John Henry's comments about attempting to reduce payroll and what form that might take.

One path to drastically reducing payroll, of course, is trading away the highest-paid players on the roster. Easier said than done, though. Mookie Betts has been the obvious focal point of these trade rumors because he has one more year before entering free agency, and seems no sure thing to sign a long-term deal to remain in Boston —or, if traded, anywhere else — before testing his value on the open market.

But the Red Sox won't want to trade him for middling prospects, and the receiving team would be foolish to part with several top prospects for just one guaranteed year of Betts at a projected \$28 million, when it's unclear if he'll sign an extension.

So if the Red Sox find it too difficult or simply undesirable to trade Betts, what about trading some of their other pricey stars? Of course it would still be difficult moving that much money, but what might trades for David Price, Chris Sale or J.D. Martinez look like?

A quick contract refresher:

- Sale, 31 in March, is in the first season of a five-year, \$145 million deal. Owed \$30 million in 2020.
- Price, 34, is in the fifth year of a seven-year, \$217 million deal. Owed \$32 million in 2020.
- Martinez, 32, is in the third year of five-year, \$110 million deal, with two remaining player options. Owed \$23.75 million in 2020.

Unlike Betts, each is under contract for several years, though Martinez's situation is obviously a bit more complicated due to his opt outs. Trading any of these players would require replacing their significant production in the rotation or lineup. And while ownership did proclaim their intent to reduce payroll, they also made clear they want to remain competitive going forward. So no, this is not a simple process. To make it a tad easier, executives often look for precedence when it comes to trades: What has a player similar in numbers, age and contract status garnered in previous deals?

There are a handful of comparably accomplished starters who've been traded over the last few seasons who could be reasonably used as barometers in Price or Sale trades, though in most of them, the financial or age situations come with some major caveats.

Gerrit Cole was traded from Pittsburgh to Houston in January 2018 for four prospects, though he was still in arbitration at the time of the trade (earning \$6.75 million). He was also, crucially, only entering his age-27 season.

Even when Sale himself was traded from Chicago to Boston in the winter of 2016, he was making \$12 million the upcoming season as part of a team-friendly five-year, \$32.5 million extension he'd signed with the White Sox in 2013. In trading Yoan Moncada, Michael Kopech, Victor Diaz and Luis Alexander Basabe for Sale, the Red Sox knew they had him for an affordable price from 2017-19.

The Red Sox trading Jon Lester at the deadline in 2014 or the Tigers trading David Price in 2015 don't quite fit for comparable trades because each was to be a free agent that upcoming winter.

But a trade like Zack Greinke from the Diamondbacks to the Astros this past summer fits in line with what a Sale or Price deal might resemble.

Arizona sent Greinke, then 35 and in the midst of six-year, \$206 million deal that runs through 2021, to Houston in exchange for four prospects: first baseman Seth Beer, right-hander JB Bukauskas, right-hander Corbin Martin and infielder Josh Rojas. Martin, Bukauskas and Beer were all top-10 prospects in the Astros system, as ranked by MLB.com, and Beer was ranked 96th. Arizona also agreed to send \$18 million to Houston, but freed itself of \$53 million of the remaining \$70 million on Greinke's deal.

Greinke is owed \$35 million per year over the next two seasons. Sale is owed \$30 million in 2020 and is under contract for four more seasons after that while Price is owed \$32.5 million in 2020 and under contract for two subsequent years.

One other comparison that could work for a Sale or Price trade would be Cole Hamels' 2018 trade from the Rangers to the Cubs. (Hamels was also traded in 2015 from Philly to Texas, but the 2018 trade fits better for age and salary purposes.)

At the deadline in 2018, the Rangers sent Hamels and cash to the Cubs for right-hander Eddie Butler and right-handed prospect Rollie Lacy. The Cubs also eventually added 17-year-old outfield prospect Alexander O'Connell as a player to be named later. Lacy was not among the Cubs' top 30 prospects at the time of the trade, despite solid numbers at the low levels, while Butler became a free agent after the 2018 season and spent 2019 in the Korean Baseball League.

Hamels, 34 at the time of the trade, had one more year left on a seven-year, \$158 million deal, \$20 million of which he was owed in 2019. Hamels is now back on the free agent market.

That the Cubs had just one full year of control after the trade probably played into the mediocre prospect pool they traded to the Rangers.

The upshot is that if the Red Sox are listening on trades for Sale or Price, they'd likely have to offer to pay part of the pitcher's salary — but with both secured for multiple seasons (like Greinke was at the time of his trade to Houston), the Red Sox should be able to seek three top 10 prospects in return.

As for Martinez, his contract makes it a bit more challenging to predict trade partners because his opt outs don't guarantee he'll remain with a team for more than a year. Martinez has three years left on his current deal, but opt outs after 2020 and 2021.

The Paul Goldschmidt trade in December 2018, however, is an interesting one in the context of Martinez. The Diamondbacks sent one year of Goldschmidt to St. Louis for former top prospects Carson Kelly and Luke Weaver, minor league infielder Andy Young and a competitive balance round B pick in the 2019 draft. Goldschmidt was owed \$14.5 million for 2019, but the Cardinals signed him to a five-year extension just a few months after the trade, guaranteeing him a \$26 million average annual salary.

The Cardinals gave up significant assets considering just the one year of Goldschmidt guaranteed at the time of the trade, but it's possible they were convinced he'd sign with them long term if they completed the deal.

Goldschmidt, 31 at the time of the swap, was coming off a season in which he hit .290 with a .922 OPS and 33 homers. In Martinez's age 31 season this past year, he hit .304 with a .939 OPS and 36 homers. Even though Goldschmidt is a first baseman and Martinez a DH, if the Red Sox explore a Martinez trade, they'll undoubtedly turn to the Goldschmidt deal for a blueprint.

Trading Martinez would obviously leave a hole in the Red Sox lineup that they'd have to fill, but it would help them take \$23.75 million off the books for 2020 and guarantee that they'd have an additional \$38.7 million for the final two years of the deal — money that might be spent on a certain former MVP. It might, however, be viewed as bad business (especially with Martinez's power agent Scott Boras) after Martinez decided to opt into his deal with Boston for 2020, only to see the team trade him away. It's certainly within their rights, but might not be the best option.

Pulling off one of these trades would be a monumental move for new chief baseball officer Chaim Bloom, and finding a cheaper replacement player for the rotation or lineup would be even tougher. But the Red Sox hired Bloom to get creative and make a more sustainable roster, so chances are these are among the options he'll be mulling.

Handicapping the odds of each Red Sox player on the 40-man roster making the 2020 club

Chad Jennings

An 11-word tweet in mid-October announced the Red Sox' first roster move of the offseason: "The Red Sox today released RHP Steven Wright from the roster."

A much longer email on Wednesday announced their latest maneuvers: Five prospects were protected from the Rule 5 draft, headlined by power hitter Bobby Dalbec and including infielder C.J. Chatham, outfielder Marcus Wilson, starting pitcher Kyle Hart and reliever Yoan Aybar.

The wheels are officially turning.

All told, the Red Sox have made 19 major-league roster moves already, and they're just getting started. Depth pieces have been outrighted off the roster, and veterans have been jettisoned into free agency, a series of early winter transactions involving everyone from Cy Young winner Rick Porcello to footnote-worthy Juan Centeno.

This offseason holds the potential for considerably more, and perhaps some unpredictable creativity along the way. The Red Sox would like to trim payroll, build the farm system and keep winning – all at the same time. It's a tricky combination that might involve some out-of-the-box ideas. Nothing, it seems, is off the table.

For now, there are 39 players on the Red Sox 40-man roster. How many will be with the team on Opening Day? We've attempted to handicap them, from those most likely to be on the field for the first regular-season game in Toronto to the ones most likely to be sent down or even cut loose. A word of caution though: With a new head of baseball operations, the margin for error is a little higher. There's no track record to suggest what Bloom and Co. might have up their sleeves.

That said, here's our list, beginning with the player most likely to be on the field and in the lineup five months from now.

Likely locked in

1. Rafael Devers – No longer a budding superstar, this season was his arrival. Devers just led the lead in doubles as a 22-year-old, and he's still not arbitration-eligible. There's little reason to move him and hard to imagine getting enough in return to make a Devers blockbuster worthwhile.

2. Xander Bogaerts – Yes, he'll make \$20 million next season, and the Red Sox are trying to trim payroll, but Bogaerts' contract also seems team-friendly, and there's no sense that the Red Sox are planning a complete rebuild.

3. Eduardo Rodriguez – Could make close to \$10 million this season, but he's under team control through 2021, and the Red Sox really aren't in a position to trade their only starting pitcher who will be in his 20s come Opening Day. Under other circumstances, perhaps you could make a case for selling high on Rodriguez, but the Red Sox aren't in much shape to do that without some serious further manipulation.

4. Christian Vazquez – Maybe too high on this list, but consider that Vazquez is signed through 2022, just had a career year and plays a position with no real backup option in place. Not saying the Red Sox hang up if a team wants to talk trade, but hard to imagine someone else starting behind the plate Opening Day.

Trade only in very special circumstances

5. Darwinson Hernandez – If another team is willing to trade for him and value him as a starter, maybe. But as it stands, Hernandez seems to be exactly the kind of cheap impact arm the Red Sox need.

6. Chris Sale – The Red Sox might very well eat a ton of salary to move a starter, but are they really going to pay Sale – a massive bounce-back candidate – to go pitch somewhere else? Can't imagine they're ready to move on that quickly. Possible, but complicated.

7. Mookie Betts – There will be – and has been – plenty of debate about trading Betts before he can become a free agent next winter. The guess here is that he's still on the roster Opening Day. Just too hard to

find a proper return in the offseason. Whether he's still with the team after the trade deadline is a different story.

Outside-the-box trade candidates

8. Matt Barnes/Brandon Workman (tie) – Expected to earn roughly \$3 million apiece, which means the Red Sox could try to trade one of them to save some money and get another reliever at a third of the price (or less). But they still seem more likely to stick around. Question is, could the Red Sox use one of their top relievers to facilitate something bigger? If so, maybe Barnes or Workman could go.

10. J.D. Martinez – Martinez could have opted out. The fact he didn't suggests even agent Scott Boras couldn't find much of a market for a designated hitter making more than \$20 million next season (with another opt-out opportunity next winter). If the Red Sox are committed to getting below the luxury tax threshold, though, trading Martinez would be a good first step. Can't dismiss that possibility.

11. Andrew Benintendi – Still relatively cheap and hasn't reached his potential, so not an ideal time to trade him. But could this be the kind of trade chip that brings back a young starter?

Pretty easy to imagine roles

12. Josh Taylor – We all saw the way Alex Cora trusted Taylor this season. He might not have the upside of Hernandez – which also means he doesn't have the trade value – but he is another cheap bullpen arm, which the Red Sox need and want. If he looks anything like last year in spring training, he's surely a front-runner.

13. Michael Chavis – The Red Sox need a second baseman, they need a first baseman, and they wouldn't say no to another right-handed power bat. Chavis fits perfectly, assuming the Red Sox don't get an offer they can't refuse.

14. Marcus Walden – Even coming off a rocky 2018 season, the Red Sox kept Walden on the roster all of last winter and were rewarded with a strong year of versatile relief. Certainly not a sure thing for Opening Day, but not hard to see him breaking camp.

15. Brian Johnson – Right now, he's the fifth starter. And if he's replaced – which he surely will be – then he's the best long-relief candidate. Johnson is cheap and out of options. Based on need, he fits.

16. Marco Hernandez – This might be too high, but the fact Brock Holt is a free agent and Hernandez looked good early in the season suggests he could be a nice fit in a utility role.

Money-saving considerations

17. Heath Hembree – The MLB Trade Rumors arbitration estimate on Hembree is \$1.6 million, which isn't a lot and probably consistent with his open-market value. But that might also be more than the Red Sox want to pay given multiple alternatives making the minimum.

18. Nathan Eovaldi/David Price (tie) – Pretty hard to imagine both of these pitchers being traded. In fact, it's a little difficult to imagine either of them being traded without eating a ton of salary. Even so, payroll concerns make them trade candidates.

20. Jackie Bradley Jr. – Another offseason of trade speculation for Bradley Jr. He's in his final year of arbitration eligibility and projected to earn around \$11 million. Given two other center field options on the roster, the Red Sox have to at least explore this trade possibility.

Competing for jobs

21. Ryan Brasier/Travis Lakins/Colten Brewer/Josh Osich (tie) – A few one-inning relievers, some with late-inning potential. Osich – claimed off waiver from the White Sox – is the only lefty in this group, and he's been good against left-handed hitters (though Alex Cora rarely prioritizes left-on-left matchups). If you assume Workman, Barnes, Hernandez, Taylor, Walden and Johnson are ahead of them, then there won't be room for nearly all of these guys out of camp.

25. Bobby Dalbec – With no roster additions, Dalbec could compete for the Opening Day first base job, but it seems far more likely the Red Sox will add a veteran stopgap and buy a little more development time for their young power hitter. If nothing else, expect to see him mid-summer. But maybe sooner.

26. Sandy Leon – Leon could make close to \$3 million in arbitration, which seems like far too much for a no-hit catcher. He's a clear non-tender candidate – and we're guessing he will be non-tendered – but considering the lack of in-house alternatives, maybe he sticks around as Vazquez insurance. Could even be non-tender and then re-signed.

27. Mike Shawaryn/Hector Velazquez (tie) – Two potential long relievers, maybe candidates for the rotation if necessary. Assuming Johnson – because he's out of options – has a leg up for a similar role, these two have something to prove.

29. C.J. Chatham – Good glove up the middle, plus a track record hitting for average in the minors. Chatham could be a good utility option at some point, but it seems unlikely he'll enter spring training as a favorite for that role out of the gate.

The injured icon

30. Dustin Pedroia – It's been a brutal two years as Pedroia has tried and tried to work his way back from knee surgery. At this point, it seems an extreme long shot that he could be ready for the opener, but he hasn't called it quits just yet. Can he actually make a case for a roster spot? If so, is Opening Day realistic or is mid-summer his best bet?

Depth pieces (some of whom might not last the winter)

31. Sam Travis – In mid-August, Travis had an .814 OPS and was making a case for a platoon role at first base (a position that's wide open). But over the last month-and-a-half, he had just a .315 OPS – yes, OPS – which left considerable doubt. The team could easily find a cheap, more proven alternative. Or he could lose out to either Chavis or Dalbec.

32. Trevor Kelley/Bobby Poyner (tie) – Probably on the outside looking in, but they did show flashes of effectiveness, especially at Triple A.

34. Ryan Weber – For some reason, he's a bit reminiscent of Walden at this time last year: seems like a strong non-tender or DFA candidate, but could also survive the winter to compete for a long-relief role.

35. Tzu-Wei Lin – He's out of options next season, and he's coming off a .665 OPS at Triple A. That's what makes him a DFA candidate. What keeps Lin in the mix is his defense, and the fact the Red Sox don't necessarily have a backup shortstop right now.

36. Kyle Hart – Already a 19th-round success story, Hart has never generated much prospect buzz, but minor-league consistency landed him a spot on the 40-man roster. Either as rotation depth or as a long reliever, he could compete for a job in spring training. Seems more likely he'll earn a call-up during the summer.

37. Marcus Wilson – Last year's Blake Swihart trade seems to have brought the Red Sox some much-needed outfield depth. Wilson had a good second half at Double A, which was enough to put him on the 40-man roster, likely not enough to give him a big-league job out of spring training. Could be an injury replacement at some point, though.

The kids

38. Yoan Aybar – Adding Aybar to the 40-man was all about protecting a raw-but-potent reliever who's likely not ready for the big leagues (but might have been worth a shot for a non-contender, hence his Rule 5 protection). For the Red Sox, it makes little sense to rush him into service in 2020.

39. Denyi Reyes – Maybe there's some chance he dazzles in spring training and wins a job, but the 22-year-old is coming off a decent year at Double A and seems more likely ticketed for a minor-league rotation.