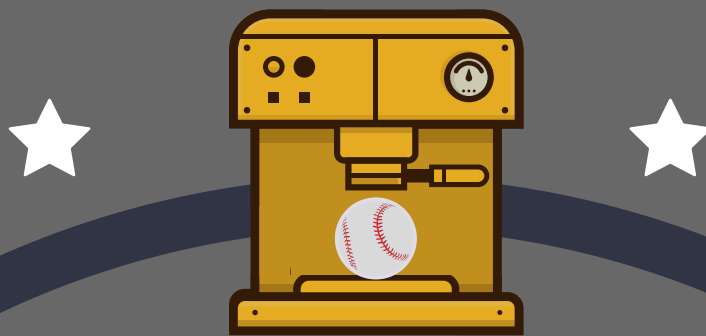
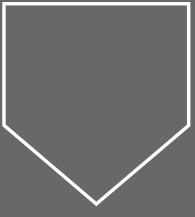


Lukas Reviews'



*Baseball  
Primer*





<b>3</b>	GLOSSARY
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# Glossary

## Pitchers

### *Innings Pitched (IP)*

Number of innings a pitcher has completed, measured by the batters that are put out

### *ERA*

Number of earned runs a pitcher allows per nine innings

### *xERA*

Disaggregates the components of ERA that are not attributable to the pitcher like ballpark, weather or defense

### *K/9*

Strikeouts a pitcher averages per nine innings

### *BB/9*

Walks a pitcher averages per nine innings

### *fWAR*

A player's value, depicted in Wins, over a replacement level player at their position and computed by Fangraphs

### *Left on Base %*

Percentage of times a pitcher ends an inning with a stranded runner on the base paths

### *xFIP*

Fielding Independent of Pitching (FIP), which takes the attributes a pitcher is responsible for (HR, BB, HBP, IBB) to isolate their performances. The expected version, xFIP, normalizes home runs

### *Stuff +*

A statistic born out of a decision tree model linking the properties of each pitch to outcomes across the league, measuring the effectiveness of a pitcher's overall arsenal and capability

## Batters

### *Plate Appearances (PA)*

Number of completed turns at the plate

### *HR*

A hit enabling a batter to score on the play without being put out or aided by an error

### *RBI*

A play which results in a run scored

### *AVG*

Plays hits divided by plate appearances

### *xBA*

Calculated by evaluating comparable balls in exit velocity, launch angle, etc. resulted in hits, thereby providing a better indication of hitter skill

### *Slugging (SLG)*

Represents total bases recorded per at bat

### *xSlugging (xSLG)*

Using the same process as xBA, xSlugging provides a better indication of batting power

### *xWeighted on Base Average (xwOBA)*

The expected version of wOBA, which is a version of on-base percentage that accounts for how a player reached base

### *wRC +*

Quantifies a player's total offensive value measured in runs and standardized by park

### *fWAR*

A player's value, depicted in Wins, over a replacement level player at their position and computed by Fangraphs

# Offseason Recap

It took longer than many expected, but Major League Baseball and the Players Association ratified a new Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) deal. The agreement will last through the 2026 season. The most significant changes are summarized below:

## Amateur Draft

The first six selections in the MLB draft will be awarded via a lottery system. The 18 teams which missed the playoffs in the prior season will be eligible for lottery participation; the odds will be distributed in reverse order of record. The odds for the top pick are as follows:

Worst record: 16.5%  
Second-worst record: 16.5%  
Third-worst record: 16.5%  
Fourth: 13.25%  
Fifth: 10%  
Sixth: 7.5%  
Seventh: 5.5%  
Eighth: 3.9%  
Ninth: 2.7%  
10th: 1.8%

Some important stipulations:

- No small-market team receiving revenue-sharing money can hold a lottery slot three years in a row
- No revenue payor can pick in the lottery two years in a row

## Expanded Playoffs

The postseason will expand to 12-teams beginning this season. The AL and NL will be represented by three divisional winners and three wild cards. The two division winners with the best records will receive a first-round bye. The remaining teams are seeded and play a best-of-three series, with the remaining divisional winner holding the one seed.

## International Draft

The Players Association and league have until July 25, 2022, to implement an international draft.

## Competitive Balance Tax

The CBT will be raised as follows:

2022: \$230 million  
2023: \$233 million  
2024: \$237 million  
2025: \$241 million  
2026: \$244 million

Clubs exceeding the thresholds will be a 20% tax for their first offense, 30% for their second infringement, and 50% tax for each subsequent violation. Additionally, surcharges were implemented at payrolls of \$20 million, \$40 million, and \$60 million above the CBT threshold. The associated tax rates with each surcharge level can be found below:

	Tax Rate		
	1st-Year	2nd-Year	3rd-Year
<b>Payroll Surpasses Surcharge 1</b>	32%	42%	62%
<b>Payroll Surpasses Surcharge 2</b>	62.50%	75%	95%
<b>Payroll Surpasses Surcharge 3</b>	80%	90%	110%

## Quick Hitters

- Minimum player compensation will rise to \$700,000 in 2022, with annual increases of \$20,000 during the next four seasons
- The universal DH will take effect this season
- Pre-arbitration players are eligible to receive bonuses from a \$50 million annual pot
- Players can be optioned five times before being placed on waivers
- Owners will contribute \$207 million per year to a player benefit fund

# Player Moves

Corey Seager



**10-YEAR, \$325 M**

Kris Bryant



**7-YEAR, \$182 M**

Marcus Semien



**7-YEAR, \$175 M**

Freddie Freeman



**6-YEAR, \$162 M**

Trevor Story



**6-YEAR, \$140 M**

Javier Báez



**6-YEAR, \$140 M**

Max Scherzer



**3-YEAR, \$130 M**

Robbie Ray



**5-YEAR, \$115 M**

Kevin Gausman



**5-YEAR, \$110 M**

Carlos Correa



**3-YEAR, \$105.3 M**



## OPENING DAY PROJECTED LINEUP

Josh Donaldson	3B
Aaron Judge	RF
Anthony Rizzo	1B
Giancarlo Stanton	DH
Joey Gallo	LF
Gleyber Torres	2B
Aaron Hicks	CF
Isiah Kiner-Falefa	SS
Kyle Higashioka	C

## PROJECTED ROTATION

Gerrit Cole	RHP
Luis Severino	RHP
Jordan Montgomery	LHP
Jameson Taillon	RHP
Nestor Cortes	LHP

## BULLPEN

Michael King	RHP
Clay Holmes	RHP
Lucas Luetge	LHP
Wandy Peralta	LHP
Miguel Castro	RHP
Chad Green	RHP
Jonathan Loáisiga	RHP
Aroldis Chapman	LHP

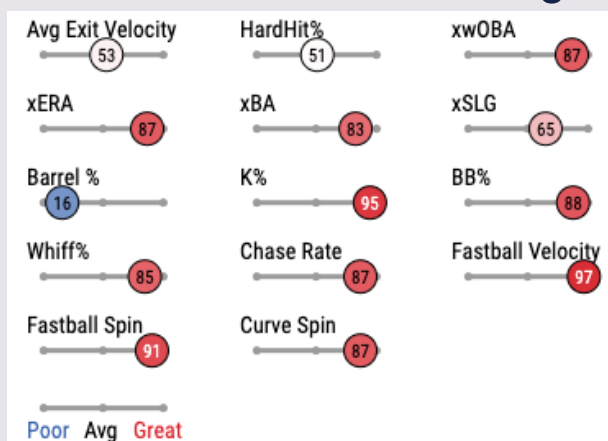
## Pitcher Profile: Gerrit Cole

In his first full season with the Yankees, Gerrit Cole performed admirably. He amassed an xERA of 3.13, fWAR of 5.3, and xFIP of 2.93; those marks ranked top-three in the American League. Cole started the season on a torrid pace and remained the overwhelming favorite to win the AL Cy Young award until Commissioner Rob Manfred's June 5th memo instituting measures to curtail the widespread usage of Spider Tack. Subsequently, Cole's spin rates were significantly reduced. After an adjustment period, Cole pitched several notable games, including a complete-game, 12-K shutout versus the Astros. The Spider Tack controversy and a late-season hamstring injury that hampered his performance resulted in a second-place finish in AL Cy Young voting. With the best 4-seam in the MLB and a devastating arsenal of secondary pitches (slider, changeup, and curveball), Cole seems poised for a dominant 2022 season.

### Stats

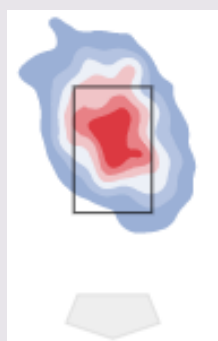
	2020	2021	2022*
Innings Pitched	73.0	181.1	199.0
ERA	2.84	3.23	3.26
xERA	3.08	3.13	N/A
K/9	11.59	12.06	11.95
BB/9	2.10	2.03	2.28
WAR	1.4	5.3	5.2
Left on Base %	85.9%	77.9%	76.6%
xFIP	3.38	2.93	3.07
Stuff+	N/A	123.1	N/A

### 2021 Percentile Rankings

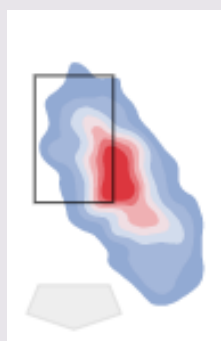


### 2021 Pitch Locations

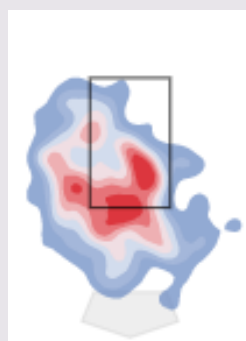
**4-Seam**  
(47.1%)



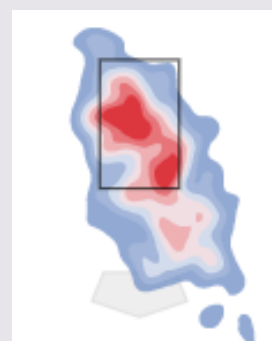
**Slider**  
(22.2%)



**Changeup**  
(14.2%)



**Curveball**  
(15.7%)

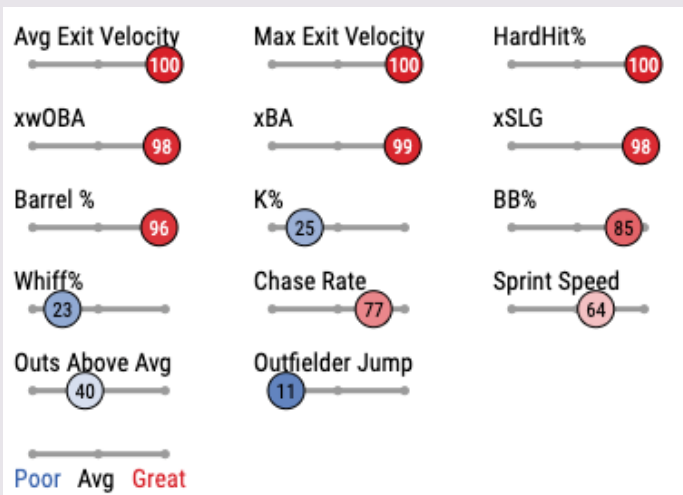




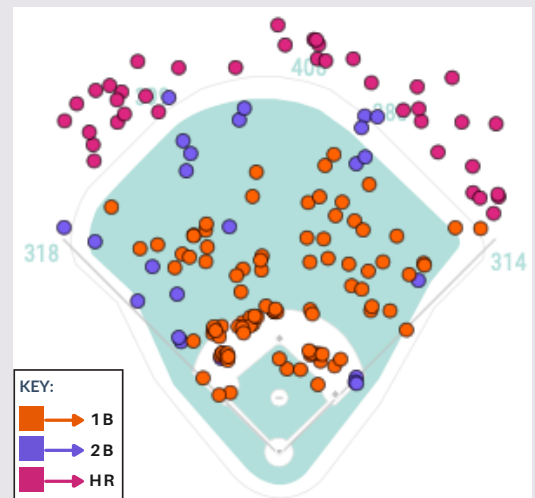
## Batter Profiles: Aaron Judge

Year	PA	HR	RBI	AVG	xBA	SLG	xSLG	xwOBA	wRC+	WAR
2020	114	9	22	.257	.260	.554	.535	.371	140	1.0
2021	633	39	98	.287	.306	.554	.591	.416	148	5.5
2022	626	41	108	.277	N/A	.536	N/A	N/A	147	4.8

### 2021 Percentile Rankings



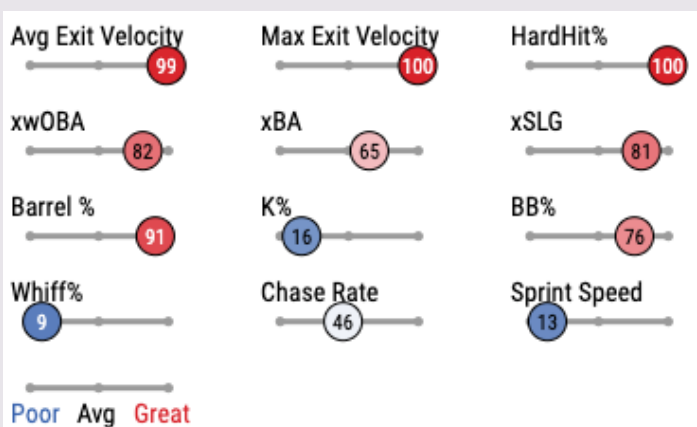
### 2021 Spray Chart



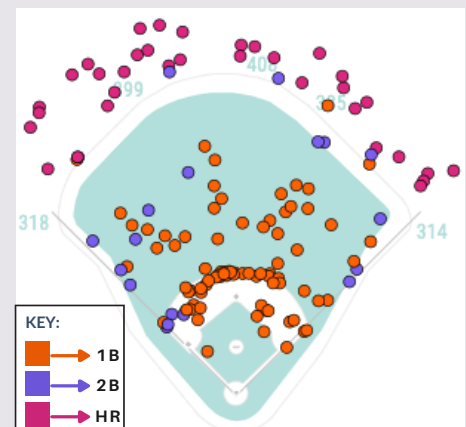
## Batter Profiles: Giancarlo Stanton

Year	PA	HR	RBI	AVG	xBA	SLG	xSLG	xwOBA	wRC+	WAR
2020	94	4	11	.250	.299	.500	.543	.407	143	0.4
2021	579	35	97	.273	.259	.516	.494	.358	137	2.6
2022	584	35	81	.252	N/A	.501	N/A	N/A	128	2.6

### 2021 Percentile Rankings



### 2021 Spray Chart





## OPENING DAY PROJECTED LINEUP

Brandon Nimmo	CF
Starling Marte	RF
Francisco Lindor	SS
Pete Alonso	1B
Eduardo Escobar	3B
Robinson Cano	DH
Mark Canha	LF
Jeff McNeil	2B
Tomas Nido	C

## PROJECTED ROTATION

Chris Bassitt	RHP
Max Scherzer	RHP
Carlos Carrasco	LHP
Tylor Megill	RHP
Taijuan Walker	LHP

\*Note Jacob deGrom is expected to miss 4 weeks with scapula inflammation. He will take Megill's place in the rotation upon his return

## BULLPEN

Trevor Williams	RHP
Joely Rodriguez	LHP
Seth Lugo	RHP
Chasen Shreve	LHP
Drew Smith	RHP
Trevor May	LHP
Adam Ottavino	RHP
Edwin Díaz	RHP

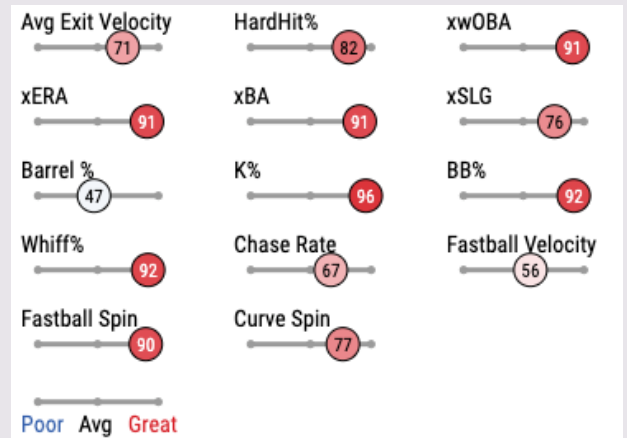
## Pitcher Profile: Max Scherzer

Max Scherzer continued his fantastic career with a strong 2021. After signing a massive deal with the Mets, he slots next to Jacob DeGrom in the league's scariest 1-2 punch. While one could forecast a decline from the 37-year-old, oddsmakers have placed him the favorite to win the 2022 NL Cy Young (+500). Scherzer's evolution as a pitcher has manifested in his deviation away from his fastball. He threw his 4-Seam 70.9% of the time in 2009, 59% in 2015, and 46% in 2021. Consequently, Scherzer increased his slider usage. Despite less movement, his off-speed prowess comes from pristine mechanics, making it difficult for batters to determine which pitch is coming. If the Mets get the Scherzer of the past decade, Steve Cohen's splurge will be well worth it.

### Stats

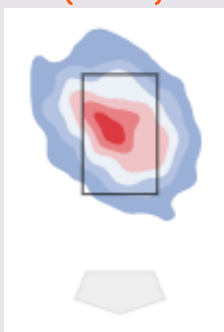
	2020	2021	2022*
Innings Pitched	67.1	179.1	189.0
ERA	3.74	2.46	3.44
xERA	4.33	2.90	N/A
K/9	12.30	11.84	11.46
BB/9	3.07	1.81	1.31
WAR	1.8	5.4	4.2
Left on Base %	78.7%	80.0%	76.0%
xFIP	3.53	3.24	3.57
Stuff+	N/A	109.4	N/A

### 2021 Percentile Rankings

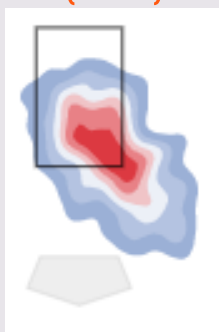


### 2021 Pitch Locations

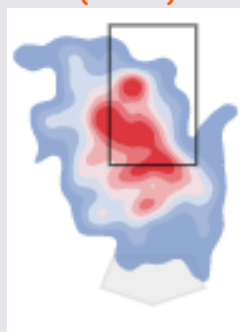
4-Seam (46.7%)



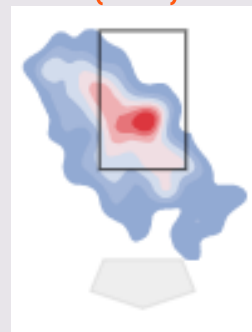
Slider (19.5%)



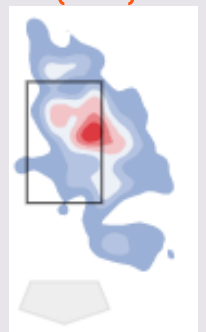
Changeup (14.9%)



Curveball (9.8%)



Cutter (9.1%)



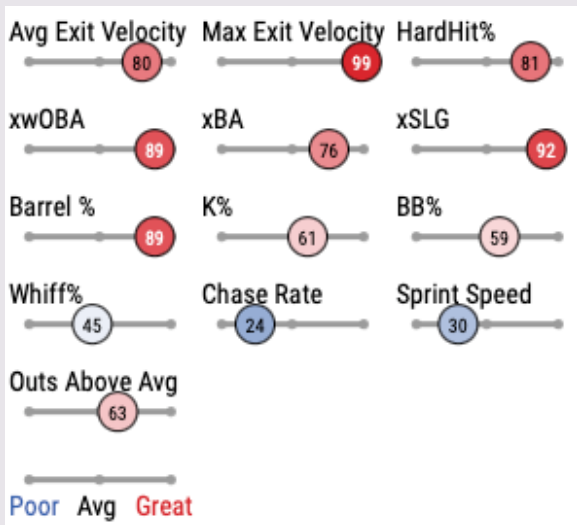




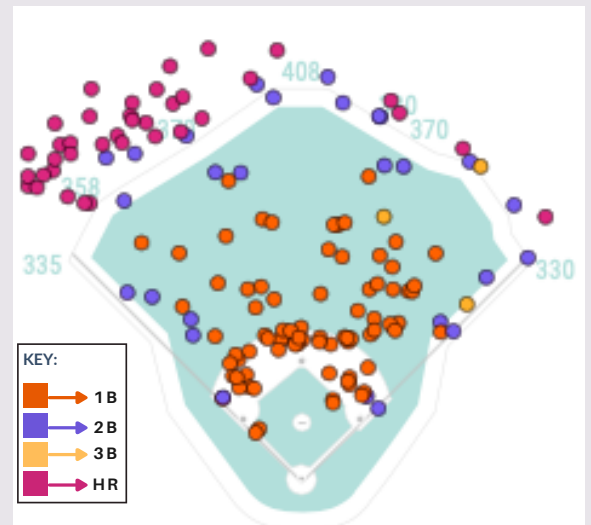
## Batter Profiles: Pete Alonso

Year	PA	HR	RBI	AVG	xBA	SLG	xSLG	xwOBA	wRC+	WAR
2020	239	16	35	.231	.222	.490	.459	.328	120	0.4
2021	637	37	94	.262	.270	.519	.541	.376	133	3.0
2022	649	37	104	.263	N/A	.513	N/A	N/A	133	3.6

### 2021 Percentile Rankings



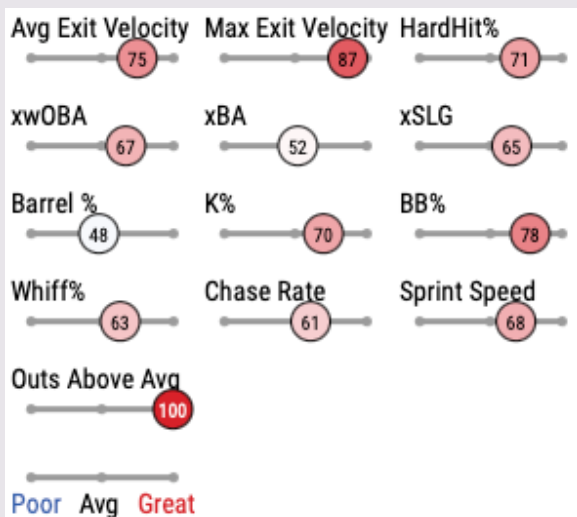
### 2021 Spray Chart



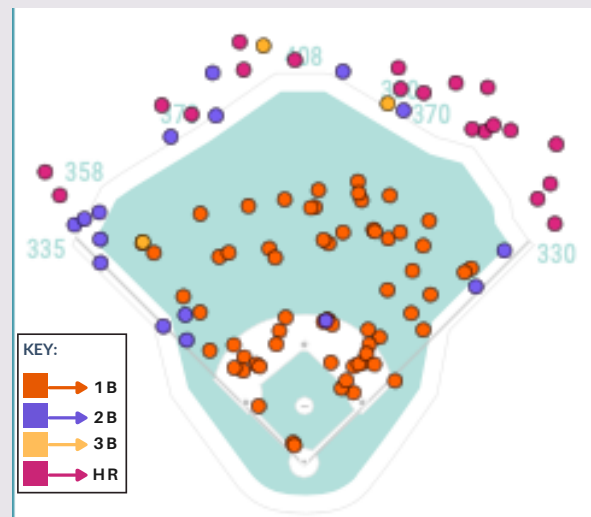
## Batter Profiles: Francisco Lindor

Year	PA	HR	RBI	AVG	xBA	SLG	xSLG	xwOBA	wRC+	WAR
2020	266	8	27	.258	.278	.415	.439	.324	104	1.8
2021	524	20	63	.230	.253	.412	.452	.317	103	2.7
2022	645	23	84	.257	N/A	.438	N/A	N/A	112	4.0

### 2021 Percentile Rankings



### 2021 Spray Chart





## OPENING DAY PROJECTED LINEUP

Mookie Betts	RF
Freddie Freeman	1B
Trea Turner	SS
Max Muncy	DH
Justin Turner	3B
Will Smith	C
Chris Taylor	LF
Cody Bellinger	CF
Gavin Lux	2B

## PROJECTED ROTATION

Walker Buehler	RHP
Clayton Kershaw	LHP
Julio Urias	LHP
Tony Gonsolin	RHP
Andrew Heaney	LHP

## BULLPEN

Victor Gonzalez	LHP
Alex Vesia	LHP
Justin Bruihl	LHP
Tyler Anderson	LHP
David Price	LHP
Brusdar Graterol	RHP
Daniel Hudson	RHP
Blake Trenien	RHP

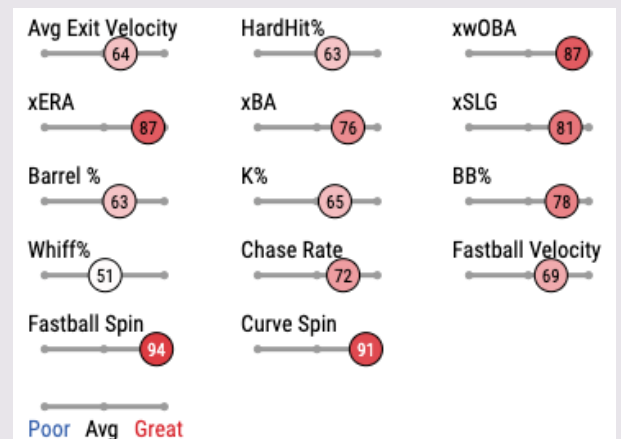
## Pitcher Profile: Walker Buehler

Walker Buehler is entering a campaign where the tabloids have anointed him as the next Dodgers' ace, formally taking the moniker from Clayton Kershaw and, most recently, Max Scherzer. Armed with six devastating pitches, Buehler leans most heavily on his fastball. Though in pitcher-friendly counts, he uses curveballs and sliders to strike out batters. The former has a 5.5" more vertical drop than league average, while his slider shifts horizontally 8" more than average. Buehler's cutter is perhaps his most crucial pitch as its 6" of horizontal movement allows him to steal strikes. After several strong seasons, he finds himself the Dodgers' opening day starter and the third-highest odds for the Cy Young (+900). The Dodgers' title hopes rely on him sustaining that level of success for the 2022 season.

### Stats

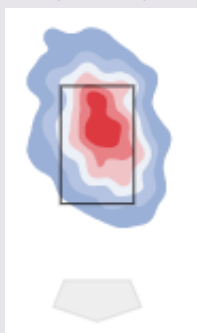
	2020	2021	2022*
Innings Pitched	36.2	207.2	198.0
ERA	3.44	2.47	4.18
xERA	3.40	3.10	N/A
K/9	10.31	9.19	9.22
BB/9	2.70	2.25	2.61
WAR	0.6	5.5	3.0
Left on Base %	68.7%	80.9%	72.7%
xFIP	3.93	3.57	4.12
Stuff+	N/A	112.7	N/A

### 2021 Percentile Rankings

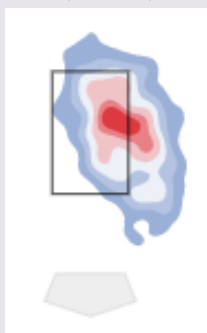


### 2021 Pitch Locations

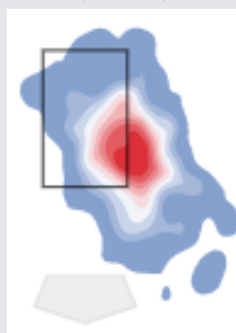
**4-Seam**  
(44.5%)



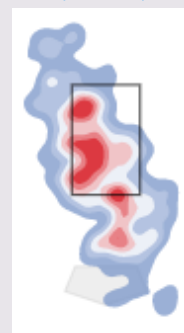
**Cutter**  
(16.3%)



**Slider**  
(13.8%)



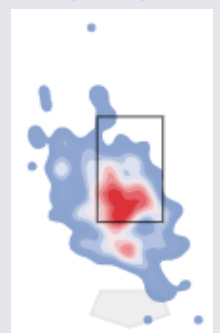
**Curveball**  
(13.2%)



**Sinker**  
(7.4%)



**Changeup**  
(4.8%)

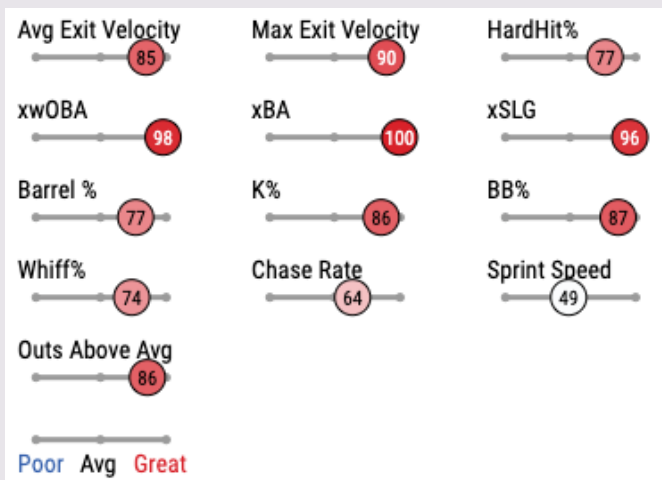




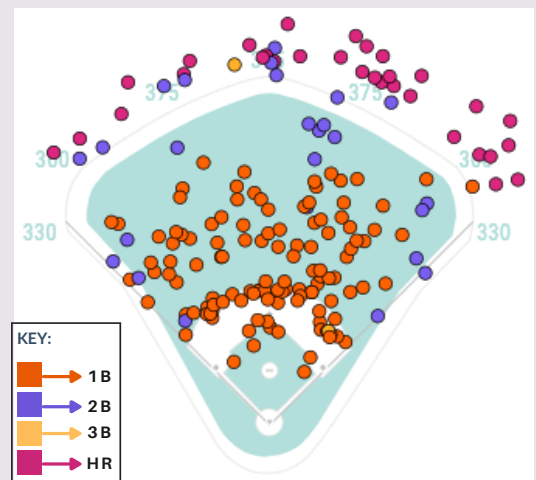
## Batter Profiles: Freddie Freeman

Year	PA	HR	RBI	AVG	xBA	SLG	xSLG	xwOBA	wRC+	WAR
2020	262	13	53	.341	.338	.640	.657	.456	186	3.3
2021	695	31	83	.300	.319	.503	.582	.379	135	4.5
2022	665	30	102	.299	N/A	.525	N/A	N/A	145	5.0

### 2021 Percentile Rankings



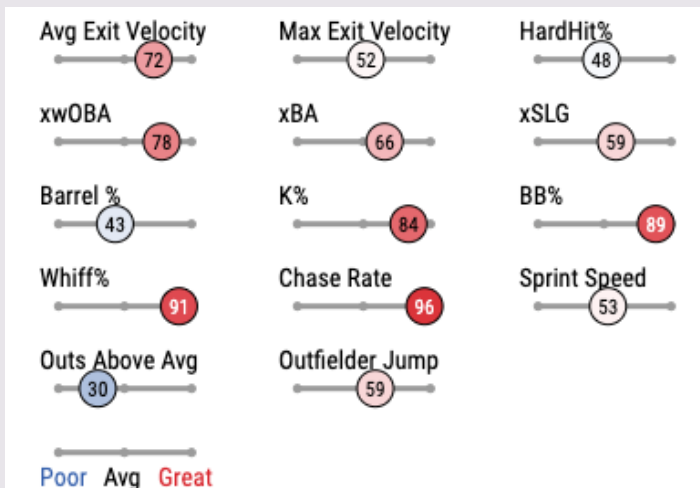
### 2021 Spray Chart



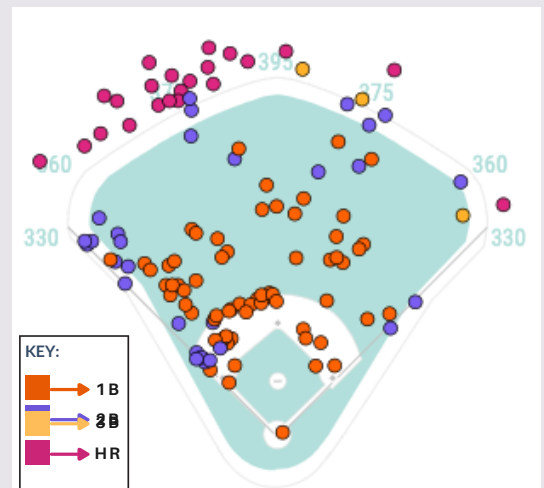
## Batter Profiles: Mookie Betts

Year	PA	HR	RBI	AVG	xBA	SLG	xSLG	xwOBA	wRC+	WAR
2020	246	16	39	.292	.281	.562	.481	.359	147	2.9
2021	550	23	58	.264	.262	.487	.443	.356	131	3.9
2022	657	33	100	.289	N/A	.536	N/A	N/A	145	5.8

### 2021 Percentile Rankings



### 2021 Spray Chart





## OPENING DAY PROJECTED LINEUP

George Springer	CF
Bo Bichette	SS
Vladimir Guerrero	1B
Teoscar Hernandez	DH
Lourdes Gurriel	LF
Matt Chapman	3B
Danny Jansen	C
Raimel Tapia	RF
Cavan Biggio	2B

## PROJECTED ROTATION

Jose Berrios	RHP
Kevin Gausman	RHP
Hyun Jin Ryu	RHP
Yusei Kikuchi	LHP
Alek Manoah	RHP

## BULLPEN

Ross Stripling	RHP
David Phelps	RHP
Trevor Richards	RHP
Adam Cimber	RHP
Yimi García	RHP
Tim Mayza	LHP
Nate Pearson	RHP
Jordan Romano	RHP

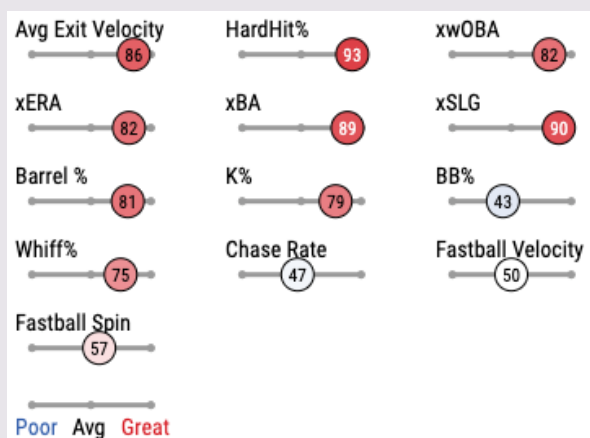
## Pitcher Profile: Alek Manoah

I opted to write about Alek Manoah over more established starters Jose Berrios and Kevin Gausman because of his upside. Despite the Blue Jays' status as the favorite (+425) for the AL-pennant, Manoah is the key to solidifying an already strong rotation. He utilizes a dominant fastball early in counts before switching to his slider, a pitch that yields a .150 xBA and equally impressive Whiff Percentage of 37%. The slider induces large amounts of whiffs due to its 16" horizontal and 42" vertical movements (league average: 6" and 36", respectively).

### Stats

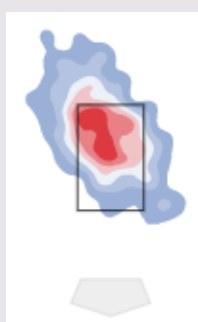
	2021	2022*
Innings Pitched	111.2	147.0
ERA	3.22	4.11
xERA	3.32	N/A
K/9	10.24	9.98
BB/9	3.22	3.24
WAR	2.0	2.1
Left on Base %	76.6	72.8
xFIP	4.17	4.14
Stuff+	101.6	N/A

### 2021 Percentile Rankings

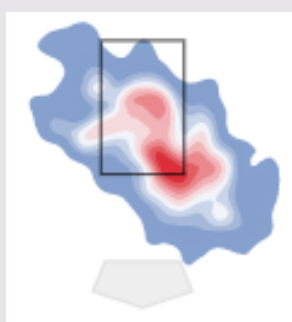


### 2021 Pitch Locations

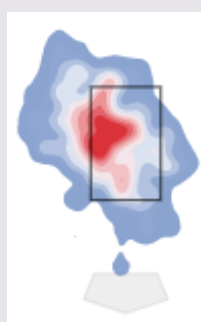
**4-Seam**  
(44.5%)



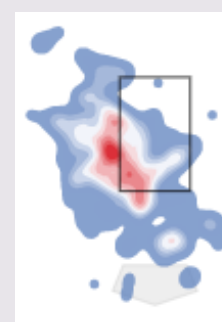
**Slider**  
(13.8%)



**Sinker**  
(7.4%)



**Changeup**  
(4.8%)

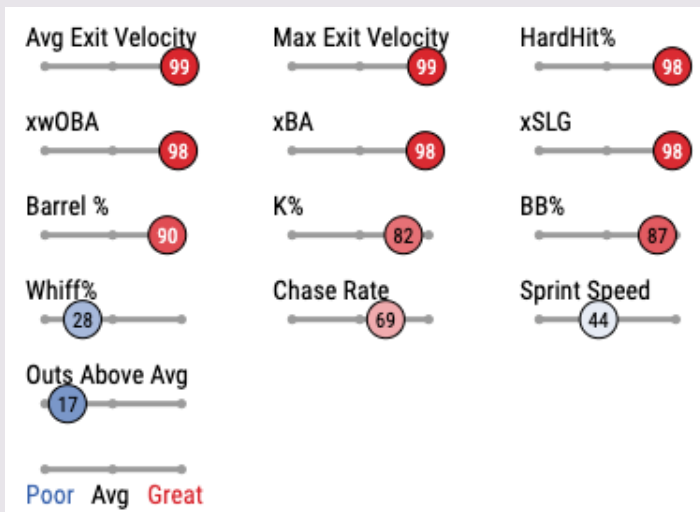




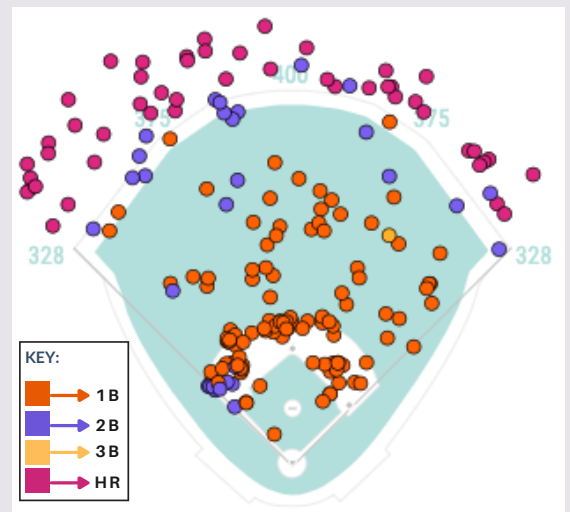
## Batter Profiles: Vladimir Guerrero Jr.

Year	PA	HR	RBI	AVG	xBA	SLG	xSLG	xwOBA	wRC+	WAR
2020	243	9	33	.262	.260	.462	.437	.338	110	0.2
2021	698	48	111	.311	.306	.601	.591	.419	166	6.7
2022	650	42	109	.305	N/A	.589	N/A	N/A	158	5.6

### 2021 Percentile Rankings



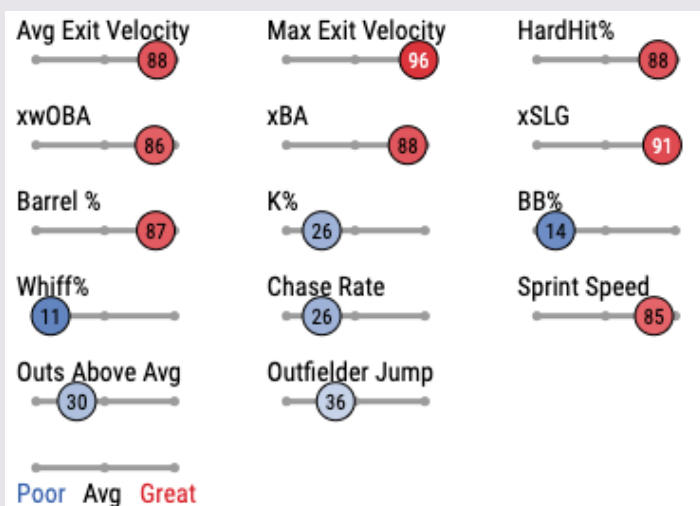
### 2021 Spray Chart



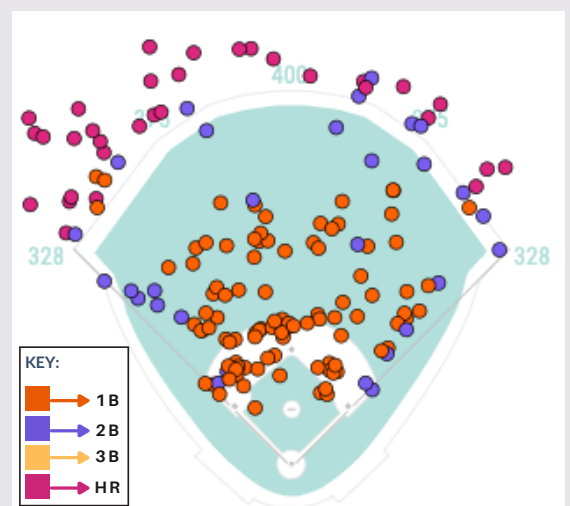
## Batter Profiles: Teoscar Hernández

Year	PA	HR	RBI	AVG	xBA	SLG	xSLG	xwOBA	wRC+	WAR
2020	207	16	34	.289	.294	.579	.611	.396	142	1.5
2021	595	32	116	.296	.282	.524	.533	.367	132	3.9
2022	609	33	90	.265	N/A	.508	N/A	N/A	120	2.5

### 2021 Percentile Rankings



### 2021 Spray Chart



# Betting Menu

## TEAM BETS

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MINNESOTA TWINS TO MAKE  
PLAYOFFS (0.5 UNITS) +175

DETROIT TIGERS OVER 77.5  
WINS (0.75 UNITS) -115

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES TO  
WIN NL EAST (0.25 UNITS) +330

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS  
OVER 86.5 WINS (0.5 UNITS) -105

## PLAYER TOTALS

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KYLE SCHWARBER OVER 31.5  
HOME RUNS (0.25 UNITS) -115

FREDDIE FREEMAN OVER 30.5  
HOME RUNS (0.25 UNITS) -110

VLADIMIR GUERRERO JR UNDER  
43.5 HOME RUNS (0.25 UNITS) -110

KEVIN GAUSMAN OVER 190.5  
STRIKEOUTS (0.25 UNITS) -110

ZACH WHEELER UNDER 209.5  
STRIKEOUTS (0.25 UNITS) -110

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## PLAYER AWARDS

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VLADIMIR GUERRERO JR. TO WIN AL MVP  
(0.25 UNITS) +500

JUAN SOTO TO WIN NL MVP (0.5 UNITS) +280

BOBBY WITT JR. TO WIN AL ROOKIE OF THE  
YEAR (0.25 UNITS) +310

JEREMY PENA TO WIN AL ROOKIE OF THE  
YEAR (0.1 UNITS) +1200

SEIYA SUZUKI TO WIN NL ROOKIE OF THE  
YEAR (0.5 UNITS) +380

\*ALL ODDS ARE COURTESY OF DRAFTKINGS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE \*

\*\* THE LUKAS REVIEW IS NOT AN ONLINE GAMBLING OPERATOR NOR A GAMBLING SITE OF ANY KIND. I PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT SPORTS BETTING FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES ONLY. ALTHOUGH I TALK ABOUT BETTING IN THE NEWSLETTER, IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL VISITORS TO CHECK CURRENT LOCAL LAWS IN THEIR OWN AREA OR COUNTRY BEFORE DOING ANY GAMBLING ONLINE. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KNOW AND FOLLOW YOUR LOCAL LAWS IN PLACE.\*\*

# Resources

Fangraphs

Baseball Savant

DraftKings

## Notes

*2022 Stats are projected using Fangraphs' Steamer for pitchers and The Bat X for batters*

*Percentile Rankings and Spray Charts are from the 2021 season via Baseball Savant*