

Stop Being Cheap
By Jesse Almeida 5/25/22

It has been very clear for the first month and a half of the season that the Boston Red Sox do not have that same energy that the team came out with last year. The Red Sox have not looked the same as last year and have been a disappointment to begin the year. Not just on the field, but also off the field as well. The Red Sox as of recently have turned it around a little, however they still sit under .500 win percentage. As many Sox fans know, there are big questions that the front office needs to answer. For the most part those answers should be simple but the front office staff is taking a different approach to this situation.

The 1st obvious question is that should the Sox extend Devers? Obviously that answer is yes. Rafael Devers has become an elite talent when it comes to his hitting. Devers numbers have increased since his time in the Majors. Devers last year was an all star with 38 home runs plus 37 doubles, 113 runs batted in, a batting average of .279, and an on base plus slugging of .890. In 2019, Devers had 32 home runs, 54 doubles, 115 runs batted in, a batting average of .311, and an on base plus slugging of .916. In terms of batting Devers had a wins above replacement of 5.4 in 2019, and 3.5 in 2021. If you watch Rafael play, the one thing that is still a question mark is his defense. It looks as if his defense is getting better but the hitting that Devers brings to the plate outweighs his defensive liability. A question that could be asked is do you move him to first or even at DH? However, the bottom line is that Raffy's bat is way too valuable to lose and he deserves a long term contract as well as the money. If the Sox lose Rafael Dever, that will drastically impact the Red Sox Organization.

This question is not as obvious as the last one but, how do the Red Sox address their pitching issue? First off, the Red Sox have to extend/re-sign Nathan Eovaldi. Nate has been one of the most reliable and trusting pitchers the Sox have had for the last few years. On top of that his time in Boston for the most part has been very solid. There was only 1 time in his 4 or 5 seasons with Boston where he had a disastrous season with an earned run average over 4.00, and that was 2019 when almost every Sox pitcher was struggling and he was injured and had to be in the bullpen at the end when he came back. Nate has been a huge piece to the Red Sox and can not lose him after this season. As for the other pitchers you have Chris Sale coming back eventually and will not go anywhere else in the future. Pivetta has looked bad this year so far, and depending on how James Paxton looks when he comes back, who knows what the Red Sox pitching staff will look like, and that's not even counting the bullpen that always needs help.

Finally the question that is just as important as the first one, will the Red Sox resign Xander Bogaerts? This is a very obvious question that should have a no brainer answer. The

Red Sox should absolutely do whatever they can to extend Xander Bogaerts. Unfortunately just like every other question that was asked, there is one huge problem. The owner staff and Robot Bloom are too cheap. Keeping Bogaerts on the Red Sox is the most important thing for the organization. It would make the organization and the front office staff look absolutely horrible. Even David Ortiz said "it would be stupid to let a guy like that go. Bogaerts is the perfect player for any organization. He represents this organization on and off the field. So that conversation needs to take place at any time. To me, he's one of the most complete players and shortstops in the game as of right now, He does a little bit of everything. He's a good clubhouse guy. He's a hard-working dude. Everybody loves him. You have never heard a coin drop about that guy. So he's perfect for this organization." Honestly, very well put by Big Papi as he nailed it. Xander was signed with the Red Sox, developed with the Red Sox, and is a winner with the Red Sox. Bogaerts is the greatest shortstop in Red Sox history. Xander's leadership, talent, and personality is irreplaceable. You do not find players like Xander this often. The Red Sox apparently offered Bogaerts a one year extension worth \$30 million extension if Bogaerts were to opt in. Bogaerts rejected and was looked at as an embarrassing offer, and honestly it was an embarrassing offer. It is clear as day that Xander wants to stay in Boston. Inside sources have told me that he loves it in Boston and that he would feel upset if he had to leave. It has been his home his entire career and a change would make him feel uneasy. There is ZERO reason to not resign Xander Bogaerts. If you follow the Red Sox on the regular, you do not need stats to back this up. Honestly if you keep Bogaerts, you most likely keep Devers as well. Bogaerts is a 2 time World Champion, a 3x All Star, and a 4 time Silver Slugger winner. He is a career .291 hitter with 145 home runs and 627 runs batted in who is also a double machine. He is always on the field who never gets hurt. He is very consistent each and every year and will give it well over 100 percent effort every night. He is a guy that every organization dreams of having. With Trevor Story being here plays a factor as well. If Story is willing to be the second baseman of the future, then Bogaerts staying is more likely than him leaving. However, if Story wants to move back to shortstop eventually, it makes keeping Bogaerts a lot harder. It really comes down to the front office staff and how they want to structure their roster. When Mookie Betts was traded, at least you could say that he did not want to be in Boston long term and that was clear (even though the Red Sox were cheap on him out too). However if the Red Sox lose Xander, you cannot put any blame or hate on Xander because he has done everything he could for the team, gave every chance for the Red Sox to extend him, and has shown that he wants to stick around. So if he leaves it on the front office staff and the organization, it would be an embarrassing look and would set them back drastically. You lose a franchise player in Bogaerts

and that would most likely lead to Devers being gone as well. The Red Sox need to keep Xander Bogaerts and extend him as soon as possible.

The Red Sox have many important pieces already that can help them win now and in the future. The front office has much to think about in order to have a winning culture for years to come. The one thing that fans can ask the owners and Chaim Bloom is to not be cheap. We are not the Tampa Bay Rays, or the Oakland Athletics. If you have a franchise player(s) on your team, you do whatever you can to keep them around. Plain and simple.

Works Cited:

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[Xander Bogaerts Stats | Baseball-Reference.com](#)