

Red Sox Fans Deserve Better

By Jesse Almeida 4/23/23

There was once a point of time where John Henry and his team would be in on almost every top free agent no matter what the cost is. He was always eager to spend money to put the Red Sox in a championship contending situation, especially when the team was so close to being at the next level. Now in the year of 2023, that mindset is the complete opposite for Henry and his team. The only question you could ask as a Red Sox fan is why? The Red Sox are known to spend either right up to the threshold or go over the threshold. But this has changed. Despite the fact that they have a total salary at 188 million dollars, the tax threshold this year is 233 million dollars. This leaves the Red Sox with 45 million dollars to spend on players. This is enough for a 35 million dollar player with 10 million left for another piece.

For the last 3 seasons, the Red Sox made moves that are subpar. That means either low risk for high reward moves, players who have dealt with injuries and are cheap to pay, or players on the back end of their careers. This is called “moneyball”. You look at a players game on paper and you predict what he could do as opposed to what he is. This was first introduced by Billy Beane who used to be the GM of the Oakland Athletics, and this version of acquiring players is used by small market teams. To name a few Oakland, Tampa Bay, Cincinnati, Miami, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, and others. Those teams unlike the Red Sox do not have the resources to go out and get top talent as often as the Red Sox. But for some reason, the Red Sox have shifted to this mindset of getting players.

The last two offseasons, the Red Sox had opportunities to boost their talent in the free agent market and with the trade market. After the 2021 season, the Red Sox were quickly back in the hunt for a World Series but fell short of 2 games to get back to baseballs biggest stage. With a new deal in place by the players and the league, the threshold was going up to where the Red Sox could keep their main pieces along with getting a big splash to put them over the top. Instead, Bloom trades Renfroe to Milwaukee for 2 prospects and JBJ who was on the downhill of his career, Bloom lets Schwarber go because he did not want to pay his price, Eduardo Rodriguez went to Detroit, Ottavino who pitched solid went to the Mets, and Martin Perez went to the Rangers. To replace those guys, Bloom added Wacha who turned out to be their best pickup that offseason, Jake Diekman who was traded at the deadline, Paxton who still has not pitched for the Sox, and the biggest on was Trevor Story who had a questionable injury report at the time he hit

free agency. The result of more talent leaving vs talent coming in, and the factor of injuries, this lead the Sox to finish in last.

With the last place finish, this brought up many questions as to whether or not the Sox were still championship contenders. At the start, the Red Sox were having a great offseason. They filled the needs in the bullpen by signing Kenley Jansen, and Chris Martin who was having a good year until he got hurt. Then, the Red Sox signed Masataka Yoshida who was a solid player over in Japan. Obviously there are questions as to whether or not his game would carry over to the Major Leagues, but he is an actual outfielder that the Red Sox needed. But then it was all downhill after that. Bloom and Henry for some reason were not close in negotiations to Xander Bogaerts and forced Bogaerts out of town to San Diego. The Red Sox lost their leader and a top 20 player in the Major Leagues. Then, they lose their most consistent pitcher in Nathan Eovaldi to the Texas Rangers. Finally, J.D. Martinez goes to the Dodgers. Their mindset did not make any sense and fans are starting to feel frustrating with the team and their direction. What did they do to replace them? Of course just like the small market teams, they budget their money and get players who could fit those roles for a cheaper cost. First they got Justin Turner who is 38 years old and on the decline. Then, they get Corey Kluber who is 37 and does not look like the same as his Cy Young award days. Finally, they get Adam Duvall who was dealing with injuries that past season.

The Red Sox mindset has changed from getting the best talent, or keeping the best talent on your team, to filling holes with low risk high reward guys. This mindset is never the recipe to win a World Series, especially here in Boston. Chaim Bloom, John Henry, and the rest of the front office wants you to believe that they still care about winning. The truth is, they do not care anymore about the results on the field. The results that they care about is the ticket sales, merchandise sales, and the concession sales. If the front office truly cared, they do not get rid of players like Mookie Betts, Andrew Benintendi, Kyle Schwarber, Nathan Eovaldi, and Xander Bogaerts and more. That is unfair to the fans. Red Sox fans are as loyal as you can get. If the Red Sox are not going to show their appreciation to those fans then why should the fans get behind their backs? Fans need to push back and say how they truly feel about how the Red Sox are runned. Until then, things will not change.