

The Front Office Choked...

By Jesse Almeida 7/31/21

As Red Sox fans, when the Red Sox are a successful ballclub, we praise them for doing great on the field or making the right decisions for the team upstairs. When they are doing bad however and they mess up, it is ok to get on them and get upset at them for that mistake. That is what it is like to be a true Red Sox fan. This is the only thing that I really have to say, what is wrong with the front office staff? The Robot Chaim Bloom is back at it. If you are a diehard Sox fan, you should be irritated at the front office of the Red Sox today. The reasoning for that is that the trade deadline has come and gone and the Red Sox only made one good move. The Red Sox had the chance to make a World Series push this year and beyond, but that is now out of the window because of “the luxury tax”, or “keeping every prospect”. It is really an embarrassing moment for the Red Sox.

As mentioned in the article before the deadline, it was mentioned that the Red Sox were in on many of the top targets on the market. Max Scherzer, who is one of the best pitchers in baseball, was one of those names. He went to the Dodgers with All Star shortstop Trea Turner, for a couple top prospects and 2 middle of the line prospects. Now yes, it would have been hard to top that deal, however if you are Bloom you should have made a decent offer to the Nationals early on before many teams got into the mix and that is what happened here with many of these names. Bloom was too late to get serious in a deal and the asking price was then too high.

Jose Berrios former Minnesota Twins ace is another example of this. Yes, the Blue Jays paid a lot for a year and a half of Berrios with two top prospects, but Berrios is only 27. You could have had a rotation of Sale, Berrios, Eovaldi, Rodriguez, and Pivetta (or Houck) for the long run. That is a solid 5 man rotation, and as mentioned, Jose Berrios is only 27, so he is just hitting his prime and not to mention, he is pretty good. But now, not only is he in the same division as you, but he goes to a team that could be really good for the next 3-4 years. The Blue Jays are probably going to extend him at some point as well.

This one may hurt, but not as much as what the New York Yankees did. The Yankees are now scary good. This will not change anytime soon either. Yes, their

bullpen is questionable, but other than that, they are phenomenal at everything else. The Yankees added two lefty bats. One of them you were not in on, but the other one should be on your team again. The Yankees added slugger and all star Joey Gallo from the Rangers in return for 4 prospects. None of the prospects were top prospects. The Rangers were looking for multiple middle of the line prospects and that is what the Yankees gave them. This was ok for the Red Sox because he is kind of overrated. He may hit a lot of home runs, and plays good defense, but that is really it. Gallo strikes out a lot, and his average is right at .220. So the only time when he gets a hit is when he hits a home run. The player that the Yankees got that really hurts the Red Sox is Anthony Rizzo. You think the Cubs got a top prospect or two in return right? No, that was not the case. The Yankees gave up a middle of the line prospect at the moment who could be a top prospect at 18 years old, and a low end prospect for Rizzo. Bloom could not offer Jeter Downs, Michael Chavis even, and another prospect for Rizzo? Rizzo is a 3 time all star, a World Series champion, with multiple gold glove awards and a silver slugger award. It has been a down year for Rizzo, he is batting .252 with 15 home runs and 41 runs batted in. However he has turned it around recently at the plate and he plays first base at an elite level. The Red Sox should have been all over to get him back to Boston. The Yankees are going to get Luis Severino, and Luke Voit back soon, Kluber could be back at some point, Tallion and Montgomery have looked great recently, they just added Gallo, and Rizzo looks like a true Yankee and this really hurts the Red Sox now and in the future.

The Red Sox were also in on Craig Kimbrel who looks like he is back to his old form again. However he went to a loaded White Sox team and now that bullpen along with the team they already had looks disgustingly good. Oakland added Starling Marte earlier in the week, however at least the Rays stayed quiet for the most part this deadline. Now let's talk about what the Red Sox did this deadline.

The one good move that the Red Sox made at the trade deadline was acquiring Kyle Schwarber from the Nationals for pitching prospect Aldo Ramirez. Ramirez was a decent prospect for the Red Sox however Schwarber is an elite bat and has had a great season so far. Schwarber is batting .253 with 25 home runs, 53 runs batted in, and an OPS of .910. He made it to his first All Star Game this year. He is only 28 and is under a

mutual option for 2022 and is an elite bat at the left side which is great. The only issue with this, he is an outfielder. Not a first baseman which is what the Red Sox needed. Schwarber can play outfield which will move Kike back to his natural position at second base which is nice even though Kike has been great at center this year. Even though I love the move of Schwarber, he does not fill the need of first base with Dalbec looking bad at first, and Marwin struggling at the plate this year.

After getting Schwarber, it turned into a disastrous trade deadline for the Red Sox. The Red Sox traded for Twins reliever Hansel Robles for Alex Scherff. Scherff is a middle of the line prospect at 23 who has had a pretty decent year so far. So you would think Robles is at least decent right? Ehh, not quite. Robles has a 5 ERA, 43 strikeouts and 10 saves in 44 innings this year. In his 7 years in the Majors, Robles has had 2 good years that being in 2016, and 2019. He does throw hard, and if he can return to 2018 form he will be a solid reliever, but as of right now that seems unlikely.

After this was announced it seemed like that was it for the Red Sox and at that point Sox fans should already be irritated. But then a half hour after the deadline, another deal was announced. The Red Sox made a trade with Pittsburgh for reliever Austin Davis. Davis is 28 and has a 5.59 ERA in 10 games. He has a career ERA of 5.65. So he is worse than Robles and the Red Sox gave up Michael Chavis for him. Chavis is only 25 and has really struggled this year and obviously, however he is still only 25 and has been in the league for technically his third year but realistically this is his second year (last year was only 60 games and he played 42). For the Red Sox to give up on him this soon is absolutely mind blowing, and if you are going to trade Chavis, he should have been a part of a package for someone good like Rizzo, Scherzer, Berrios, or Kimbrel. Not for someone who with the career Davis has had so far.

The trade deadline for the Red Sox was not good; they were one of the losers from the deadline outside of getting Schwarber. So what grade do I give the Red Sox for the Trade Deadline? They get a D from me. The reasoning for that is this. Yes, the Red Sox got Kyle Schwarber and he is a good player and they did not give up much to get him, however the Red Sox did not fill in their main needs at the deadline. No first baseman for the Red Sox. They were in on Rizzo, however lost him to the rival

Yankees. I wanted them to get Carlos Santana at least for first if they could not get Rizzo and they did not. No starting pitching help for the Red Sox is unacceptable. Especially when the majority of the Sox starters have struggled this year. Nate has been great, Pivetta has been solid, Houck has been good too but Cora does not keep him up in the majors permanently for some reason, that is really it. Richards has blown, Martin Perez sucks, and Eduardo Rodriguez has really struggled this season. Yes, Chris Sale is coming back, however he has a lot of pressure on him. It seems like he is expected to be his former self but that almost seems unfair for him. He is just coming off of Tommy John Surgery for starters, and second of all he has not pitched in 2 years. The Sox should have got some sort of starting pitcher that is solid or even decent at least to take off some pressure for Sale. Finally, the Michael Chavis trade. If you are going to trade him, at least get something decent in return for him. Not someone who is absolutely terrible on the field. If the Red Sox lose the division, or get bounced in the playoffs wild card round or first round, or even miss the playoffs, Red Sox fans will look back at July 30, 2021, and realize that was the day the Red Sox front office choked away an opportunity.

Sources:

[MLB trade deadline tracker: Every deal made ahead of Friday's deadline, including Kris Bryant to the Giants - CBSSports.com](#)

[Kyle Schwarber Stats | Baseball-Reference.com](#)

[Alex Scherff Stats, Fantasy & News | MiLB.com](#)

[Hansel Robles Stats | Baseball-Reference.com](#)

[Austin Davis Stats | Baseball-Reference.com](#)

[Michael Chavis Stats | Baseball-Reference.com](#)