

The Final Push
By Jesse Almeida 7/28/21

As we have been saying on the Podcast and in videos, the Boston Red Sox are legit. They are a legit playoff team that can potentially make a run at the title. It would be a lie if I said that I saw this coming. I did predict that the Sox would be 2nd in the AL East, and a Wild Card team in the playoffs, but I had them not going far. But this team has been good. Way better than anyone has predicted. The Red Sox are currently in first place in the American League East and it looks like the Yankees and Blue Jays are going to be out of the AL East race. The East looks like it is going to be the Rays or the Red Sox. The question that you want answered is should the Red Sox buy at the trade deadline? Before I said that the Sox should stay put at the deadline but I changed my mind.

The Red Sox should be buying at the deadline. Here is the reason for that, Cora and the players have been amazing this season. This team deserves help and are honestly not far from being a World Series contender. The players, front office, and the coaches told us in spring training that this team is sneaky good, they were right. This team is good and is going to be good for a long time. The Red Sox are one of the best offensive teams in baseball with Devers being unbelievable, Bogaerts being Bogaerts, Martinez driving in runs constantly, Verdugo catching fire, Kike has been a solid leadoff hitter, and Renfroe has been a huge surprise. The defense had a slow start to the season, but now they are one of the best at saving runs in baseball. If you have been watching you see how good they have been defensively. For the pitching, it has been solid. Nathan Eovaldi has been phenomenal, Pivetta is looking like a steal from the trade last year, in his short stint Houck looks like he could be a number 2 pitcher eventually, Eduardo has been decent, and the bullpen has saved many games. How great this team has been, my most favorite thing about this Red Sox team is that they never quit. They play till the final out is made and they grind hard. When they are down they do not give up and more times than not, they show up in the clutch.

So we answered if the Sox should be buyers at the deadline, now the question is what do the Sox need at the trade deadline? In my opinion they could need an outfielder and put Kike at his natural position at second base. If you want to say that Kike has

been great at center and they should not mess with that, then that is fine, you could target a second baseman then. A big need that the Sox have is at first base. They need to go out and get a first baseman. Dalbec has not been the player people have hoped for. He has 10 Homers and 36 RBI, however he has a .218 average, a .656 ops, and has struck out 105 times in 278 plate appearances and only has 57 hits in those appearances. Along with that Dalbec's defense has been underachieving. Maybe you get someone at first and send Dalbec down to Worcester for a bit to revamp his game. Another need is starting pitching. You got Chris Sale coming back in August, Nate, Houck (if they keep him up), and Pivetta. Everyone else has been either questionable or just not good. Erod has been questionable all year. He has had good starts but then bad starts. Do not get me started on Garrett Richards, and Martin Perez has been awful. The Sox need a solid pitcher that will perform well in the postseason because let's be real, Houck and Pivetta will not be in the rotation in the postseason. Finally bullpen help is not a need but something you would like to have. A consistently good reliever would be very helpful.

Rumors have it that they are "in" on all of these positions. Some big names as well. A couple that I would love to see them get done is Anthony Rizzo, and Max Scherzer. It will be hard to get Scherzer but the Rays are interested in him as well and you need to keep him away from Tampa. A Rizzo homecoming would be amazing especially with the need at first base for now and in the future. Another name that the Sox have been "interested" in is our old friend and champion of the 2018 Red Sox is Craig Kimbrel. He has had an amazing season so far and it looks like he is the old dirty dawg that he was before. The Red Sox are looking like they can be in it right now and if you were to ask me they are not going anywhere anytime soon. This trade deadline will be interesting.