

This Season is Already a Failure for the Red Sox
Jesse Almeida 8/21/22

Originally, there was a nickname created for the Boston Bruins for looking like a good team, but in reality they were not having a good season. They underachieved in expectations and really let fans down during the season. The nickname that was originally created for the Bruins was “Fools Gold”. However, it is officially safe to say that the Boston Red Sox have taken over as the “Fools Gold” of Boston Sports. The Red Sox have had a laughable season where there have been moments that they looked like a high school team at best. Even though mathematically the Sox are still in the hunt for a playoff spot, it looks like they will not be in a playoff run for the 2022 season.

At this current moment, the Red Sox are in last place in the AL East division with a record of 60-62. Even the Baltimore Orioles have a better record than the Red Sox. If you were to say at the beginning of the year that the Orioles will have a better season than the Red Sox, people would say you are crazy. The Sox are 5 games back of a Wild Card spot behind the White Sox, the Orioles, the Twins, and the Rays. Yes people, the Red Sox are behind the Orioles by 3.5 games in the standings. If they were competitive in their division and had series wins in their division, then at least they are being competitive. However to this day, the Red Sox only have 1 series win against an American League East opponent all season (that was against the Yankees from August 12th-14th). When the Red Sox lose games, they are really frustrating and laughable losses. For a while, the Sox had players playing in positions that they have never played before. For example, Franchy Cordero and Bobby Dalbec as their first basemen, Christain Arroyo was getting time in right field, and Jarren Duran who should be as far away from the major league club as possible. Due to this factor, we have seen errors that all you can do is laugh at. Cordero and Dalbec dropping throws right at them, Arroyo not knowing where the ball is, and even Jarren Duran who is an outfielder dropping multiple fly balls and not hustling to retrieve the ball to prevent further damage. Then you have Chris Sale who has been struggling to get back on the mound has an accident on a Bicycle that ends his season (yes, that's a real story). It has been clear that this is just not the Red Sox year.

Even players like J.D. Martinez, Xander Bogaerts, Nathan Eovaldi, Nick Pivetta, and Alex Verdugo are all having one of those bad years that players have from time to time. It is unfortunate to see but it does happen. J.D. is 35 and it looks like he could be on the down hill on

his career. J.D. has 9 home runs, 46 RBI¹, a batting average of .276, an OBP² of .347, a SLG³ of .434 which gives an OPS⁴ of .781. At one point this season he had a .365 average but now dipped almost 100 points. Nate is in a contract year that could be on his mind. Nate is 5-3 with an ERA⁵ of 4.15, and a WHIP⁶ of 1.25. Verdugo has not been the player the Red Sox have hoped for. Dugie has 7 home runs with a .282 average, an OBP of .327, a SLG of .396 which gives a .723. But he is on pace to have a career high in RBI's with 58 at this moment. Bogaerts is on a contract year and it is clear as day that he has not been himself. If Sox fans do not remember, Bogaerts had a nasty fall against the Mariners early on in the year where he landed awkwardly on his glove side arm, along with that getting clefted in Chicago. Both injuries most likely have played a factor in Bogaerts down year because in a normal season Bogaerts is a top 20 player in the MLB. Bogaerts has 10 home runs with a .299 average, 50 RBI, an OBP of .370, still slugging .441 which gives an OPS of .811. The Home Run and RBI numbers are not the same, however he is still at 31 doubles on the year. For fans to say that the Red Sox should let him walk, they should get rid of him, and that Bogaerts is "a singles hitter" do not watch Boston Red Sox baseball. He means as much to the Red Sox as Rafael Devers does. It would be a colossal mistake if Bogaerts leaves, and the Bogaerts disrespect is ridiculous.

But the one thing that has factored in with every player and their performances along with the coaching as well has been the disconnect with the front office of the organization. It is clear as day that Chaim Bloom, Sam Kennedy, and John Henry have the players and coaching staff scratching their heads. From the beginning this front office staff had zero idea what they were planning for the 2022 season. First, they let Kyle Schwarber walk who was a huge part of their run in 2021 and helped elevate players' overall game with his presence. Schwarber is having a season that the Red Sox desperately needed in the outfield. Schwarber has 34 home runs, 71 runs batted in. The average is down at .213, however he has an on base percentage at .314, a slugging percentage at .500, which gives a total of an .814 for the on base plus slugging percentage.

¹ RBI = Runs Batted In

² OBP = On Base Percentage

³ SLG = Slugging Percentage

⁴ OPS = On Base Plus Slugging

⁵ ERA = Earned Run Average

⁶ WHIP = Walk and Hits Per Innings Pitched

Then signed Rich Hill where his career is a wrap. Then signs James Paxton who has been injured longer than expected.

Also, signed Trevor Story even though the players wanted him the fit did not make sense as he is a primary shortstop and obviously the questions if he would still be the same player outside of Coors Field. So far that signing has not worked out as well as Story has been injured for a while. In 81 games, Story has 15 home runs with 58 runs batted in. His batting average is .221 with an on base percentage of .289, a slugging percentage of .423 which gives a .713 OPS.

Finally in the offseason, the worst move out of all was trading Hunter Renfroe for Jackie Bradley JR and 2 prospects in Alex Binelas and David Hamilton. An overall failure of a trade for Bloom as Renfroe has been out and is still having a fantastic season with 22 home runs, 50 RBI, with a batting average at .245. Renfroe has a .306 OBP, with a .503 SLG which equals out to an .809 OPS. If he stayed with the Sox with these numbers, without a question he could have been an All Star this year who was cheaper than JBJ. Meanwhile, JBJ has been released and is clearly not as good as he once was. With the Red Sox, Jackie was a .210 hitter with 3 home runs, 29 RBI, an OBP of .257, SLG of .321 which is a .578 OPS. Along with that, the stat that stands out the most is his wins above replacement which measure how much of a factor you are on a team. Jackie's WAR is at -.4. That means he hurts you more than helps you. It is clear as day that Jackie is not the same player, but for some reason Red Sox fans still believe that he is a good player and a good outfielder where even his defense has taken a dip. As for the 2 prospects in return, not so good here as well. Alex Binelas who has been better of the 2 has hit 23 home runs, 71 RBI, a .201 batting average with an OBP of .312, a SLG of .435 which gives an OPS of .747 between A+ ball and AA. David Hamilton has 9 home runs, with 31 RBI, a batting average of .224, an OBP of .303, a SLG of .367 which gives a .670 OPS.

Next up are the moves Chaim Bloom made during the season. He traded away Christian Vazquez and at that point, it looked like the Red Sox were going to sell off their expiring pieces and wave the white flag. This move had Red Sox players baffled. They had no idea that Vazquez was gone when they were in Houston, they learned from reporters about Vazquez being traded, Vazquez ended up taking the field for batting practice and then was swarmed with reporters as he himself still did not know what was going on. The move made Sox players confused and did not understand where this organization was heading.

Then after 4 months of not having an actual first baseman, and a decent hitting outfielder, Bloom goes out and finally addresses those needs as he brought in Tommy Pham (OF) and Eric Hosmer (1B). After trading away a major piece to that clubhouse, he then goes out and buys to try and help the team compete. This made fans upset, and not for the moves that were made, but making these moves too late in the season. The fans have every right to feel this way because at that point what are we actually doing? Are we competing or not? Along with that, how many games did the Red Sox blow before these moves? Those moves should have been made at the beginning of the season. We now know that the Red Sox were linked to Pham in the offseason. Pham wanted to come to Boston, but for some reason the deal fell through. The moves were great, but a second too late.

The Red Sox season is a wrap and the Red Sox will not be in the playoffs in 2022. It is safe to say that the Boston Red Sox deserve an F for the 2022 season. They had a huge opportunity to be a real threat in the American League this season and all around, the team blew it. At the end of the offseason we will release an article on who is to be blamed for the 2022 season for the Boston Red Sox.

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