



**SOUTHEASTERN  
ATHLETIC**

TRISTIAN FLUHR 1.0

# MOCK DRAFT

PICKS 1-16

JAX  
NYJ  
MIA  
ATL  
CIN  
PHI  
DET  
CAR  
DEN  
DAL  
NYG  
SF  
LAC  
MIN  
NE  
ARI

T.Lawrence, QB, Clemson

Z.Wilson, QB, BYU

J.Chase, WR, LSU

J.Fields, QB, Ohio St.

P.Sewell, OT, Oregon

D.Smith, WR, Alabama

J.Waddle, WR, Alabama

K.Pitts, TE, Florida

C.Farley, CB, Virginia Tech

P.Surtain II, CB, Alabama

G.Rousseaw, EDGE, Miami

T.Lance, QB, N.Dakota St.

R.Slater, OT, Northwestern

M.Parsons, LB, Penn St.

E.Stokes, CB, Georgia

A.Vera-Tucker, EDGE, S. California

J.Owusu, EDGE, Notre Dame

T.Etienne, RB, Clemson

K.Toney, WR, Florida

J.Mayfield, OT, Michigan

C.Darrisaw, OT, Virginia Tech

K.Paye, EDGE, Michigan

J.Phillips, EDGE, Miami

N.Harris, RB, Alabama

A.Ojulari, EDGE, Georgia

Z.Collins, LB, Tulsa

T.Marchall Jr, WR, LSU

J.Horn, CB, South Carolina

N.Bolton, LB, Missouri

J.Ossai, EDGE, Texas

S.Cosini, OT, Texas


W.Davis, IOT, Ohio St.

PICKS 16-32

LV  
MIA  
WAS  
CHI  
IND  
TEN  
NYJ  
PIT  
JAX  
CLE  
BAL  
NO  
GB  
BUF  
KAN  
TB



# NFL FREE AGENCY



After a few months the Steelers and their star quarterback finally reached a deal that would keep Ben Roethlisberger in Pittsburgh for another year while earning \$14 million. Big Ben and his time with the franchise was uncertain after a disappointing end to the 2020 season. After an unbelievable 11-0 start to the season, the Steelers lost four out of their last five regular season games including losses to Washington and Cincinnati, before losing in the first round of the playoffs to the Browns. Now that they have secured Ben for another season, the new question is how will this team do in what could be Roethlisberger's final year. The Steelers noticeably have some weak points on the offensive side of the ball. The team all together this past season only rushed for 1,351 yards. To put that into perspective rookie running back Jonathon Taylor of the Colts had 1,169 yards. That's only 182 fewer yards. However, the Colts do have a top tier offensive line that the Steelers do lack. The Steelers goal this offseason should be to improve that front five. Bringing in a guy like free agent Brandon Scherff who spent his most recent season in Washington could be a huge pickup for Pittsburgh. Scherff in his six year career has been named to four pro bowls and was a first team all pro player this season. An addition like this could turn this Steelers team into a potential contender. Giving James Conner a solid line to work with could dramatically change his stats, and Roethlisberger would once again have a top offensive lineman to help give him time in the pocket. The Steelers already have plenty of high end players to get the ball to including Juju Smith-Shuster, Chase Claypool, and Diontae Johnson. Giving Ben that extra tenth of a second could be all the difference for this team.

Green Bay has officially re-signed the 26 year old stud of a running back Aaron Jones. The last two seasons, Jones has been at the top of the rushing yard leader board, rushing for at least 1,000 yards. In his short four year career he has rushed for 3,364 yards averaging 8.1 yards per carry. In total Aaron has had a total of 43 touchdowns, 37 of which came from rushing the ball. It is easy to say that re-signing the young running back was a great move by the Packers front office,

After what can only be described as a disappointing season, Cam Newton was in fact re-signed by the New England Patriots. Newton was signed for another year in a contract worth \$13 million. Last season the Patriots ended with a 7-9 record missing the playoffs for the first time since the 2008 season. In addition to Newton, 18 other free agents signed with the Patriots. In total the team spent over \$100 million over the course of the past month of the offseason.

# TJ MCCONNELL

At the beginning of March, Pacers' bench player, T.J. McConnell made NBA history. You often expect a big name or a starter player to set such records as McConnell did that night. Sam Quinn for CBS Sports called McConnell's performance one of the "most memorable defensive performances in NBA history". What did McConnell do to deem this title from Quinn? McConnell came off the bench to set a league record of 9 steals in one-half of a basketball game—only 2 steals away from beating the 11 steals in one-game record set by Draymond Green. McConnell ended the night with the 11th triple double with steals in NBA history. He accumulated 16 points, 13 assists, and 10 steals. Not to mention, McConnell did not miss a single shot he made in that game and had no free throws to assist him with these numbers. McConnell leads the NBA in steal rate at 3.4% given that he plays an average of under 25 minutes per game and now has entered 4th leading stealer in the league with this unbelievable performance.

Story by Delaney Crace



**10.4**  
PPG  
ARIZONIA  
COLLEGE

**6.4**  
APG  
ARIZONIA  
COLLEGE

**2.2**  
SPG  
ARIZONIA  
COLLEGE

**6.4**  
PPG  
76ers  
2018-19

**3.4**  
APG  
76ers  
2018-19

**1.0**  
SPG  
76ers  
2018-19

**7.0**  
PPG  
Pacers  
2020-21

**6.5**  
APG  
Pacers  
2020-21

**1.8**  
SPG  
Pacers  
2020-21

# BASEBALL IS BACK

Predictions for this years MLB season.

Baseball is back. Opening Day 2021 is soon approaching and we will be ever closer to the normal 162 game schedule that has been synonymous with the nation's pastime for centuries. In this season preview, I'll give my predictions for the MLB season and who I think the teams that will be fighting for the league pennants will be.

The AL West has been a division dominated by the Houston Astros for the better part of the last decade and that more than likely will not change this season. Although losing George Springer to Toronto in the offseason was a big loss, the Astros still have a majority of their championship core returning with Jose Altuve, Carlos Correa, Alex Bregman, and their ace Justin Verlander. The Oakland A's have been a play-off team the past few seasons and they should be in the Wild Card race this season, but I have them just missing out because of the strength in the AL East. The A's can sneak their way into the playoffs if their corner infielders Matt Olson and Matt Chapman have stellar seasons or if the MLB owners vote to expand the playoffs to 12 or 16 teams. The Angels are still a few pieces away from competing for a postseason spot - especially in the rotation and bullpen. The Rangers are in a similar situation to the Angels, needing to surround their superstar, Joey Gallo, with high-level talent. The Mariners still have many, many years to go before they are competing. The rebuild is in full force.

The White Sox are in prime position to avenge their Wild Card loss to Oakland last season with a strong lineup, complimentary rotation and bullpen, and a legend as manager. Two-Time World Series Champion Tony la Russa inherits a team overflowing with potential and the Sox are a near shoe-in to be the Chicago team that everyone is talking about in 2021. The Twins will be competitive in the Wild Card race, but the White Sox should win the division overwhelmingly. I expect strong seasons from Byron Buxton and free agent acquisition Josh Donaldson, however. The Indians, Royals, and Tigers are all going to be well off the pace of the top two teams in the

In what may be the most competitive division in professional baseball, the Yankees have the writings on the wall for yet another division crown. The core of Judge, Sanchez, Stanton, LeMahieu, and Gerrit Cole all look to have phenomenal seasons to lift the Bronx Bombers ahead of two young, hungry teams in the Blue Jays and the Rays. The Blue Jays led by a trimmed down Vladimir Guerrero, Jr. and before mentioned George Springer will be contenders this season and will give the Yankees a run for their money. The reigning AL Champs, the Tampa Bay Rays, secure the final Wild Card spot due to keeping their roster intact. Kevin Keirmaier, Randy Arozarena, and Austin Meadows lead a stacked outfield and will power the Rays to the playoffs for the third consecutive season. The Red Sox and Orioles have a long way to go to catch up to their division counterparts.

Surprise, surprise, I have the reigning champions winning the division again. The fact of the matter is that the Dodgers are no less potent than they were last year... in fact, they've gotten stronger. Through the acquisition of Trevor Bauer, the Dodgers have created one of the strongest rotations in recent memory. Bauer had a career year with Cincinnati in 2020, putting up a 1.73 ERA and 0.79 WHIP. He joins Walker Buehler, Clayton Kershaw, Julio Urias, and David Price for a rotation that will lead LA to many wins in 2021. And that's not even mentioning the offense with Cody Bellinger, Mookie Betts, Corey Seager, and AJ Pollock. It would be ridiculous not to have the Dodgers as the top team in the NL West, maybe even in all of baseball. But the Padres I believe will give the Dodgers a run for their money. Fernando Tatis, Jr.'s monster \$400 million contract was the splash of the off-season, but he will be worth every penny for the Padres, who in 2020 made their first postseason since 2006. San Diego even added to their stellar rotation with 2020 AL Cy Young finalist Blake Snell, stealing him away from Tampa Bay. The Giants don't have the firepower that the Dodgers and Padres do, but don't be shocked if they have a solid season. The Diamondbacks and Rockies

**AL WEST**  
 1.ASTROS  
 2.ATHLETICS  
 3.ANGELS  
 4.RANGERS  
 5.MARINERS

**AL CENTRAL**  
 1.WHITE SOX  
 2.TWINS  
 3.INDIANS  
 4.ROYALS  
 5.TIGERS

**AL EAST**  
 1.YANKEES  
 2.BLUE JAYS  
 3.RAYS  
 4.RED SOX  
 5.ORIOLES

**NL WEST**  
 1.DODGERS  
 2.PADRES  
 3.GIANTS  
 4.D-BACKS  
 5.ROCKIES

**NL CENTRAL**  
 1.CARDINALS  
 2.BREWERS  
 3.CUBS  
 4.REDS  
 5.PIRATES

**NL EAST**  
 1.BRAVES  
 2.NATIONALS  
 3.METS  
 4.PHILLIES  
 5.MARLINS

**AMERICAN LEAGUE**  
 YANKEES  
 DEFEAT  
 WHITE SOX

**NATIONAL LEAGUE**  
 DODGERS  
 DEFEAT  
 CARDINALS

**WORLD SERIES**  
 DODGERS  
 DEFEAT  
 YANKEES  
 4-2

The NL Central had 4 teams in the postseason in 2020, but for 2021 I believe that the Brewers and Cubs will just fall short of the Wild Card. The Cardinals pulled off the biggest trade of the offseason, acquiring eight-time Gold Glove Nolan Arenado and cash from the Rockies for a few lower-level prospects and draft picks. The Cardinals now have a loaded infield with three-time Gold Glove Paul Goldschmidt at First Base, Tommy Edman at Second, 2019 All-Star Paul DeJong at Shortstop, and the before-mentioned Arenado at Third. The Cardinals have the longest tenured pitcher/catcher duo currently in the MLB returning with Adam Wainwright and Yadier Molina. The redbirds one big departure was gold glove second baseman Koltan Wong, who joined 2019 NL MVP Christian Yelich and division rival Milwaukee Brewers. Outside of Yelich and Wong, the Brewers truly don't have the firepower to reach the Cardinals. The Cubs are a fascinating team and added CF Joc Pedersen in the offseason. The talent is there, but it remains to be seen if David Ross can lead them on a post-season run. The Reds lost Trevor Bauer, which realistically eliminates all possibility of making the postseason and the Pirates have quite literally traded away all of their talent to tank.

This should be the closest and most competitive division in baseball this season. For much of the season, I would expect the last place team to only be a few games back of the division lead. But ultimately, I think the Braves are too talented for the rest of the division and the bats of Acuña and Albies will bring them another division crown. The Nationals and Mets will be locked in a battle for the second wild card spot all season, and it very well may come down to a winner-take-all game to see who gets that postseason berth. I have the Nationals because they have more recent postseason and clutch scenario success than the Mets. The Phillies have Realmuto and Harper, but outside of those two they are going to need more to have success in this division. The Marlins made a miracle run to the playoffs last season, but this year I don't think the magic will continue. *Story by Tristain Flhur.*

2021  
 2M  
 0L  
 2B  
 1

