***Assignment #3: MLB General Manager (Individual Assignment)***

**Due by 11:59 pm ET on Sunday, November 28, 2021**

The former home of the Washington Nationals, Montreal, has just been awarded an expansion franchise by MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred for the 2022 season. You have been appointed the Club’s first General Manager. MLB has granted an extraordinary expansion draft in allowing you to select from any player who played during the 2021 season.

Assignment: Using fangraphs.com player data from the 2021 season (“Leaders” tab – Batting/Pitching Leaders for 2021) and 2021 player salary info (available on blackboard), construct a 25-man Opening Day roster for next season that consists of the following positions:

* 12 pitchers: 5 starters and 7 relievers.
* 2 catchers
* 6 infielders (at least 1 per each position of 1B/2B/3B/SS)
* 5 outfielders (at least 1 per each position of LF/CF/RF)

Players with multiple positions may be used in either one, as it best fits your line-up.

Your line-up should strive for the **maximum average WAR per player** in your line-up based on the player’s 2021 WAR (do not use any projections for 2022). You will be graded both on your selections as well as how your average WAR per player measures up against that of teams compiled by your classmates!

Minimum PAs/IPs from the 2021 season:

Players selected must have the following *minimum* Plate Appearances (PA)/Innings Pitched (IP):

* **Offense: 300 PAs**
* **Starting Pitchers: 90 IP**
* **Relief Pitchers: 30 IP**

WAR Normalization:

* Position Players/Batting: For all Position Players, normalize or pro-rate WAR against **600 PAs** (Plate Appearances). For example, if a player was injured in 2021 and had a WAR of 2.0 across 200 PAs, you would pro-rate their WAR up to 6.0. For players with more than 600 PAs, you will pro-rate downwards (e.g. a player with a WAR of 4.0 over 1,200 PAs, would have a WAR of 2.0).
* For all Starting Pitchers, normalize or pro-rate WAR against **180 IP** (Innings Pitched).
* For all Relief Pitchers & Closers, normalize or pro-rate WAR against **60 IP**

Salary Cap: Since Montreal is an average size market relative *to* other MLB markets, your Club owner, one-time Expo great Andre Dawson, has granted you a strict salary cap of **$132M** (2021 team median opening day salary). Use the 2021 MLB Player Salary file posted on blackboard. For any player whose salary cannot be located in the file, visit <http://www.spotrac.com/mlb/>

Parameters:

* Team limits: You may only choose two players from any one single team (i.e. you cannot select the entire Braves lineup). For this assignment, use the team that the player was on at the end of the 2021 season. For players who were traded during the 2021 season, fangraphs does not list a team. For these players, use the team that they were on when the 2021 season concluded (e.g. Trea Turner – Dodgers, Joey Gallo – Yankees). Disregard any player trades that might have occurred since the end of the season or take place during this assignment – revert back to the team that they last played for. Players can be looked up on mlb.com
* Salary ranges: Below is the maximum # of players that you may select across various salary ranges:
  + Over $10.0M: 5 players
  + $5.0M-$10.0M: 4 players
  + $2.0M-$4.99M 4 players
  + Below $2M no limit

Submit the following/upload the following to blackboard:

\* Excel: team lineup by position/salary with all supporting data. **Use Team Roster Selections file**.

\* Word: 1-2 page summary of process, trade-offs and player selection strategies employed (Tableau usage is optional)

Other notes:

Regarding players who can fit multiple positions. Although logically the WAR should change as a player shifts positions, Fangraphs.com retains the same WAR. For example, in 2019, the Brewers’ Christian Yelich unadjusted WAR was 7.8 for both LF and RF. For simplicity, use the WAR provided by Fangraphs.com. There is not a need to come up with your own subjective/weighted WAR. You can use the player in either position as it best fits your lineup.

Free Agents: Players who are now free agents may not have a team listed for them on Fangraphs.com. Free Agents can be used and not count against team limits. For example, Freddie Freeman finished the season with the Braves but is now a free agent. If you were to select this player, you can still select two other players who are under contract with the Braves for the 2021 season. Consider any player who was a free agent as of Nov. 14, 2021 to be a free agent.

For a listing of top free agents, visit <https://www.si.com/mlb/2021/11/08/mlb-free-agent-rankings-predictions-correa-seager-scherzer>

Retired Players: For the sake of the assignment, you may select a player that has since retired after the end of the 2021 season (e.g. Buster Posey - SF Giants.

Designated Hitters: Since Montreal will play in the National League East, you may not draft a player who is only eligible as a Designated Hitter (DH). However, you may draft a player that shows up on fangraphs as both a DH and a position player.