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What is a recent mistake the Mariners organization has made, and why do you consider it a mistake? (Problem 3)

A recent mistake the Mariners organization made was sticking too long with a flawed hitting philosophy and leadership approach in 2024. Despite having playoff-caliber talent — including the best ERA in MLB (3.49), a +69 run differential, and an expected 89–73 record — the team missed the postseason. The “control the zone” strategy backfired, producing excessive called strikeouts, poor situational hitting, and one of the lowest batting averages in the league (.224, 29th in MLB). This inconsistency cost the team close games and even critical matchups against weaker opponents like the Tigers, who ultimately edged Seattle out of playoff contention.

Leadership compounded the problem. Manager Scott Servais was criticized for failing to keep the team sharp and motivated in day games and against lesser competition, and his inability to adjust the team’s offensive approach was costly. After his midseason firing, interim manager Dan Wilson led the team to a stronger finish, but the damage was already done.

Coaching changes, highlighted by Edgar Martinez’s move to hitting coach this season, have transformed the offense. Strikeouts are down, production is up, and star player Julio Rodríguez is delivering at the consistent, elite level the team needs.

These were clear organizational mistakes because it wasn’t about talent, the Mariners had elite pitching and a top-10 statistical profile, but rather about philosophy and leadership. The fact that coaching changes immediately reduced strikeouts and boosted offensive production this season underscores how preventable last year’s shortcomings really were.