

The Mariners have a tradition of moving position players in and out of the lineup quickly in an environment that suppresses offense, one that can make quality hitters look worse in small samples. T-Mobile Park is tough on hitters (park factor score of 92!), as Teoscar Hernández's 2023 home/road split with Seattle attests: .583 OPS at T-Mobile vs. .881 on the road (baseballsavant). That gap illustrates how the park distorts true offensive capability and why short evaluation windows can mislead.

The Eugenio Suárez trade is a case in point. On June 22, 2023, Seattle traded Suárez to Arizona for Seby Zavala and Carlos Vargas, a reliever/catcher package that prioritized non-bat value while selling low on a proven power bat. Suárez then had impact stretches in 2024, including a three-homer game on July 31, pointing out that the underlying power was still present once context changed. (Wikipedia)

Teoscar Hernández offers a second example. After an understated 2023 in Seattle (26 HR, .741 OPS), he signed with the Dodgers and produced a star-level 2024 (~.272/.339/.501 with 33 HR; ~134 wRC+), in keeping with a hitter breaking free of a suppressive home park and finding a better match. The lesson isn't that Seattle should have matched the Dodgers' offer; it's that "one-year reads" on bats at T-Mobile carry extra error bars (baseballsavant).

In short, the mistake isn't one name, but rather a process gap: keeping T-Mobile results as true talent and skill too early. A wiser, more context-aware, patience-balanced philosophy for bats would likely have preserved value (gained it in exchange) and lifted Seattle's run floor without adding much cost.