

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

I think a mistake the Mariners have made with the past two years was not going into rebuilding mode sooner. Looking at the 2018 batting stats of the Mariners on baseball-reference.com, only one player aged 25 or lower had an at-bat for the Mariners all season. This is important to look at because when rebuilding a professional baseball team, it's important to bring in young players with lots of potential to develop their skills and make them better athletes. Fortunately that one player under 25 on the 2018 team grew to seven players on the 2019 team, then up to eleven players who were 26 or younger on the 2020 team.

With 36 year old Nelson Cruz and 34 year old Robinson Cano on the roster at the end of 2017, and bringing in 34 year old Denard Span for the 2018 season, that time would have been better spent shopping trades for Cano and Cruz and bringing in prospects and picks to begin a rebuild. It's good the front office traded Cano and Cruz, however I think it was a year too late. The Cano trade was also too costly with sending 23 year old Edwin Diaz, a bright spot on an otherwise lackluster bullpen, to the Mets. I think Diaz could have been kept and used as a jumping off point for bringing in young relief pitchers to rebuild the pitching staff.

The Mariners went into rebuild mode a year later than they probably should have. Not enough focus was put on developing young players with bringing in veteran players in the twilight of their careers in 2018. However, from what I've read about the Mariners young players and their minor league affiliates, it seems like the future is bright. Bringing in top prospects like Jarred Kelenic, Julio Rodriguez, and great pitching prospects like Emerson Hancock and Logan Gilbert is an excellent step in the right direction for the future of the Mariners.