



JOEL SHERMAN

SPORTS



# Adam Warren fallout: Yankees need new rotation safety net

By Joel Sherman

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Modal Trigger

Adam Warren Photo: Getty Images

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Say you were in Vegas right now and had to wager a nice bit of money on this question: Who will lead the Yankees in innings in 2016?

Whom would you pick?

Keep in mind CC Sabathia, with all of his problems on and — **as we learned late in the season** — off the field, was the only Yankee last season to reach 162 innings and qualify for the ERA title.

But he is 35 now, has brittle knees, a well-worn arm and is coming off a stint in a rehab facility to treat alcoholism.

Michael Pineda has yet to make it through a Yankees season healthy. Same for Masahiro Tanaka, who would be on any “most likely to need Tommy John surgery next” list. Ivan Nova has Tommy John surgery in his recent past. Nathan Eovaldi was obtained last offseason because the Yankees were facing a similar dilemma and were looking for a guy they thought could provide 200-ish innings and had upside. But he missed the last month of the 2015 season with an inflamed forearm.

Luis Severino is promising, but has never pitched a full major league season. Bryan Mitchell frustrates the Yankees because he is a talented guy who has yet to consistently produce results to match his skills.



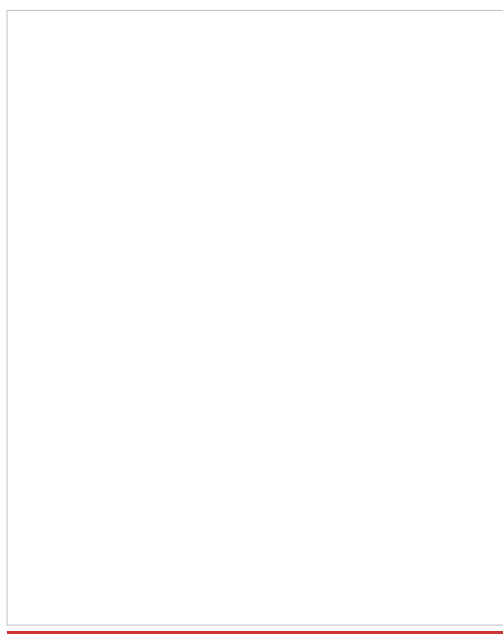
Starlin Castro rounds the bases after a playoff home run for the Cubs. Photo: Getty Images

Those are the seven options for the Yankees’ 2016 rotation. That is why even if you liked the trade to acquire Starlin Castro from the Cubs, the loss of Adam Warren was painful to the Yankees.

He was a great security blanket for both the rotation and bullpen, a latter-day Ramiro Mendoza — but with more upside as a full-time starter, the ability to command four pitches and the athleticism to help himself on the mound fielding and holding runners. And the Yankees are also losing a guy who was well regarded in his clubhouse for his professionalism.

Warren was a guy who could soak up starter innings at a pretty good level when the inevitable Yankees injuries struck. And now that is gone, following other potential depth parts such as David Phelps and Shane Greene out the pinstriped door.

Warren and Severino were the only starters the Yankees definitively control beyond 2017. All of the others can be free agents after either the 2016 or 2017 campaigns. The Yankees think their first-round pick from June, UCLA's James Kaprielian, can come fast. They were pleasantly surprised in Instructional League to see his fastball was playing up to 95 mph consistently to go along with good secondary stuff, plus they love his makeup.



James Kaprielian, the Yankees' 2015 first-round pick Photo: AP

But that is a lottery ticket, especially for 2016.

The Yankees need more security in their rotation for next year — and beyond. That is why you keep hearing Brett Gardner and Andrew Miller are available. The Yankees view them as important pieces to try to win in 2016, so they will only trade them if they get what they so desperately need: starters with less than three years of service time with high ceilings.

The Cubs asked a few times for Gardner in exchange for Castro, but the Yankees would not do that — a signal about what they want back to move Gardner. Because the Diamondbacks are going for it and their closer is soft-tossing Brad Ziegler, the Yankees inquired whether they were interested in Miller. But that went nowhere. The Dodgers have not turned to the Yankees after their trade for Aroldis Chapman fell through.

The Astros were the team looking hardest at Miller, but decided to acquire Philadelphia closer Ken Giles instead.

With Aaron Hicks and Castro added to address the need for more athleticism and righty hitting and youth among their position players, the Yankees have turned their focus fully to finding a starter to bolster a rotation whose durability you wouldn't want to bet on.

Filed under aaron hicks , adam warren , andrew miller , arizona diamondbacks , brett gardner , cc sabathia , chicago cubs , houston astros , los angeles dodgers , luis severino , masahiro tanaka , michael pineda , mlb hot stove , nathan eovaldi , new york yankees , starlin castro

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## Who's more expendable: Miller or Gardner?

7 comments

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Still Anonymous

Maybe we can trade Castro for a Warren-type starter/reliever. Give Refsnyder and Ackley a chance at 2nd.

Wardup04 .

Oh shut up, Joel! Please! You are a bitter writer who could never even dream of functioning on Little League roster, let alone an MLB roster....I think Nova WILL function on his first walk year, will pitch through little injuries players with your mentality might plead the 15 day DL, and have great success. Think Ewaldi will realize how much strain the split can put on an elbow, and at 25, will make adjustments. Pineda will perform OK as the Yanks increase his yearly workload by another 20%. And Tanaka, who's pitched with the same exact injury so many pitchers throughout baseball in the past who've lacked exact MRI's will do just fine. I know you have to justify a paycheck, but you are such a little weasel....

Generalissimo X

trading warren was idiotic. castro for gardner would have been a much better move. at the very

least the defense up the middle will be solid.

Wardup04 .

@Generalissimo X Ummmmm, loved Warren as well, but think about it....Warren, spot starts mixed in with an inning out of the BP....Castro, 151 games, very productive, great defense...Gardy, the same, plays through injuries....Personally, trade Ref for a BP arm with as much upside as Ref has offensively.....If Gardy needs to go, so be it. Not sure who for, but if it makes sense, Hicks takes over, either Williams, Heathcott or Cave gets the 4th spot....

Generalissimo X

@Wardup04 . @Generalissimo X warren is no ace, but he's a durable arm which this team has precious few of. i like the addition of castro but if the cubs would have taken gardner (which this article indicates) the smarter move would have been moving him. castro is a decent player...its not the move, it's what the yanks gave up. cashman blew it again.

ChasMon

Miller is less than 3 years older than Betances. Both have great talent, but Miller has proved himself in the closer role. Why wouldn't it be Betances who gets traded?

YanksFanInMA

Joel, you have (perhaps) a valid concern for 2016, but this is a move for the long term. Anytime you can get an all-star-caliber position player, who's still 25, for a middle reliever/spot starter, that's a no-brainer !

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## **THE POST LINE**

NBA  
NHL  
NCAAF  
NFL  
Friday

Favorite	Line	Underdog
Detroit	8 (193)	PHILADELPHIA
INDIANA	5 (195½)	Miami
Cleveland	3 (197)	ORLANDO
BOSTON	OFF (OFF)	Golden State
TORONTO	8 (194)	Milwaukee
NEW ORLEANS	3 (216)	Washington
MEMPHIS	3½ (193)	Charlotte
Oklahoma City	2½ (204)	UTAH
Minnesota	1 (202)	DENVER
SAN ANTONIO	15½ (194)	LA Lakers
PHOENIX	3½ (209)	Portland

Friday

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
Los Angeles	110-120	PITTSBURGH
NEW JERSEY	104-106	Detroit
CHICAGO	OFF-OFF	Winnipeg
DALLAS	220-250	Philadelphia
NY Rangers	135-145	EDMONTON
ARIZONA	OFF-OFF	Minnesota
ANAHEIM	175-190	Carolina

Saturday

Favorite	Opening Current (O/U)	Underdog
NAVY 23	22 (50½)	Army

Bowls

Arizona	10	10 (OFF)	New Mexico
Utah	2½	2½ (OFF)	BYU
Appalachian St	9½	8 (OFF)	Ohio
San Jose St	5	3 (OFF)	Georgia St
Louisiana Tech	1½	2 (OFF)	Arkansas St
W Kentucky	3½	3 (OFF)	South Florida
Utah State	7	6½ (OFF)	Akron
Temple	PK	1 (OFF)	Toledo
Boise St	8½	7½ (OFF)	N Illinois
Bowling Green	7½	7½ (OFF)	Georgia Southern
W Michigan	3½	3 (OFF)	MIDDLE TENNESSEE
Cincinnati	2	1½ (OFF)	San Diego St
Marshall	4	4 (OFF)	UCONN
Washington St	2	3 (OFF)	Miami
Washington	8½	8½ (OFF)	Southern Miss
Indiana	2	1½ (OFF)	Duke
Virginia Tech	14	13½ (OFF)	Tulsa
UCLA	6½	6½ (OFF)	Nebraska
Navy	5	3½ (OFF)	Pittsburgh
Minnesota	6	5 (OFF)	Cent. Michigan
California	6	7½ (OFF)	Air Force
Baylor	2½	3 (OFF)	North Carolina
Colorado St	3	3½ (OFF)	Nevada
LSU	7	7 (OFF)	Texas Tech
Auburn	2½	2½ (OFF)	Memphis
Mississippi St	5½	5 (OFF)	NC State
Texas a&m	2½	2½ (OFF)	Louisville
SOUTHERN CAL	3	3 (OFF)	Wisconsin
Florida St	6½	7 (OFF)	Houston
Alabama	9½	10 (47)	Michigan St
Oklahoma	1	3½ (66)	Clemson
Tennessee	9	8 (OFF)	Northwestern
Michigan	4	4 (OFF)	Florida
Ohio State	6½	6½ (OFF)	Notre Dame
Stanford	6½	6½ (OFF)	Iowa
Mississippi	6½	7 (OFF)	Oklahoma St
Georgia	6½	6½ (OFF)	Penn St
Arkansas	12	11½ (OFF)	Kansas St
TCU	1½	1 (OFF)	Oregon
Arizona St	1½	PK (OFF)	West Virginia
Sunday			
Favorite	Opening Current (O/U) Underdog		
CINCINNATI	5½	2½ (49½)	Pittsburgh
Buffalo	1	PK (47)	PHILADELPHIA
CAROLINA	8	9 (46½)	Atlanta
CLEVELAND	3	2 (41)	San Francisco

CHICAGO	3½	3 (43½)	Washington
Detroit	+1	2½ (41)	ST. LOUIS
KANSAS CITY	8½	10 (45)	San Diego
TAMPA BAY	4	4 (51)	New Orleans
JACKSONVILLE	1	OFF (OFF)	Indianapolis
NY JETS	7½	7 (43)	Tennessee
New England	3½	3½ (44½)	HOUSTON
DENVER	6½	7 (43½)	Oakland
GREEN BAY	9	7 (42½)	Dallas
Seattle	5	10 (42)	BALTIMORE

Monday

NY Giants PK 1½ (46½) MIAMI

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