

Strategic Recommendations for the Los Angeles Angels

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One Sentence Big Idea:

The goal is to analyze the 2022 Los Angeles Angels and provide them with recommendations that will help them to make the playoffs in the upcoming season.

Executive Summary

We are a group of analytical consultants hired by the Los Angeles Angels. The Angels, who missed the playoffs in 2022, are seeking to identify particular areas of improvement as they seek to get back to the playoffs. First, we analyzed various hitting and pitching metrics and their ability to indicate whether a team makes the playoffs. We found some of these metrics to be very suggestive of success in the regular season, boosting their odds of making the playoffs. On the other hand, we find that some metrics had very little impact on a team's chances of making it to the postseason. After pinpointing the most relevant metrics, we evaluated the Angels' performance in those areas. We analyzed performance by position to highlight specific areas of weakness and then identify a specific group of players who failed to produce in the most important metrics. These players were detrimental to the Angels' chances at making the playoffs, so we recommend that the Angels re-evaluate their roster heading into the 2023 season and beyond, including a new first baseman, shortstop, and relief pitcher.

Initial Recommendations

The Angels have plenty of opportunity to improve to become a playoff team. Some of our initial recommendations for the organization are to improve relief pitching, improve first base, catcher, and shortstop offensive production to maximize their OPS+. Two areas to improve upon for pitching include focusing on relief pitching ERA and quality starts. If a starting pitcher is able to pitch deep into games while not allowing a lot of runs, it allows the team to have more long term success. The Angels starting rotation's ERA is comparable to other playoff teams, but they are failing to pitch deep into games. Allocating more payroll to acquire another top starting pitcher, while encouraging managers to allow the starters to pitch deeper into games, should lead to more success. Another way to increase wins is to have a solid core of relief pitchers. The Angels have one of the worst bullpens in the league, and addressing some of these weaknesses will help long term success. The management should focus on finding strikeout-heavy relief pitchers to replace pitchers such as Mike Mayers and Jimmy Herget, who have very high ERAs.

To improve their offensive struggles, we would recommend that the Angels replace Jared Walsh at first base, by finding a replacement with a high OPS+. Next, the Angels should replace Andrew Velazquez at shortstop and Max Stassi at catcher. This decision should be based on not only hitting statistics, but also defensive ratings, since

these positions are defensive focused. On the other hand, Angels' should keep their outfielders and second baseman, as they had great production this season. Finally, we would recommend that the Angels try to maximize their team OPS+ due to its strong correlation with win total and making the playoffs. We believe that if they implement these strategies they will improve their chances of making the 2023 playoffs.