

Shea's Performance Review

Checking up on Shea Langeliers 162 games into his MLB career

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September 14, 2023



Pach-ing Things Up

It has been a year and a half since the now infamous Matt Olson trade. The former A has recently tied the Braves' franchise record for home runs in a season, and the A's are still struggling to justify the trade.

The centerpiece, outfielder Cristian Pache, is gone after a miserable 2022 season (-1.0 fWAR, 34 wRC+ in 91 games). As for the two pitcher prospects: 2021 first-round pick Ryan Cusick has a 5.09 ERA in AA, and while Joey Estes is in AAA at just 21 years old, he is not blowing anyone away.

The hopes of this trade bearing any kind of fruit that the A's can feel good about appears to rest on the shoulders of former first-round pick and top-100 prospect catcher Shea Langeliers.

A quick look at his slash line (.209/.271/.404) would indicate that the A's are crying themselves to sleep at night, but perhaps there is something to be optimistic about.

A Tale of Two Seasons

This is how Langeliers has performed with the bat through his first complete season's worth of games:

Season	Games	PA	Triple Slash	Doubles	Triples	HR	RBI
2022	40	153	.218/.261/.430	10	1	6	22
2023	122	448	.205/.268/.401	17	3	19	47

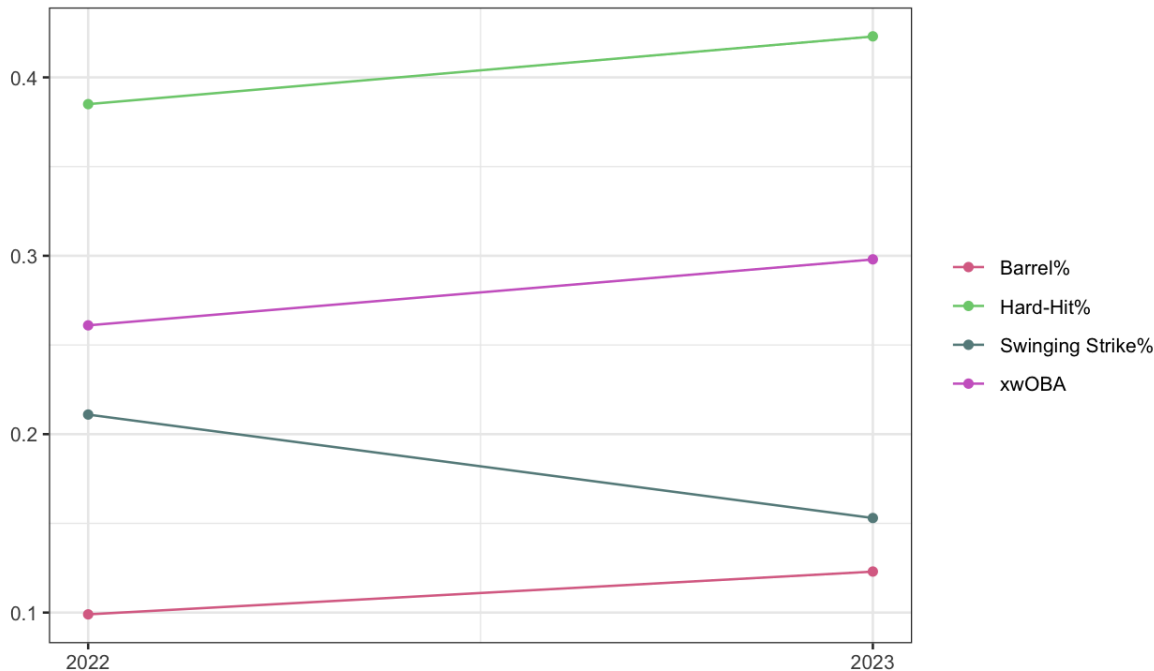
Table 1: Langeliers's counting stats across his two seasons **through 9/13/23**

Season	wRC+	ISO	BABIP	Walk Rate	Strikeout rate
2022	96	.211	.294	5.9%	34.6%
2023	84	.196	.245	6.9%	28.3%

Table 2: A look at some of Langeliers's advanced statistics across his first 162 games

It appears Langeliers's bat has regressed, but peripheral stats indicate he might be improving. Shea is still not walking, but he has cut down the strikeouts. He's hitting balls harder and getting more barrels than he did in 2022:

Shea Langeliers's contact stats from 2022-23



All four statistics are trending in the right direction, despite the lackluster results.

Langeliers also is trying to bounce back from a tough first half of the season. His second half has been notably better, especially in terms of power production:

Stretch	GP	PA	Triple Slash	Doubles	Triples	HR	ISO	wRC+	BB%	K%
First Half	79	293	.205/.267/.366	11	1	10	.160	74	6.5%	29.4%
Second Half	43	155	.206/.271/.468	6	2	9	.262	101	7.7%	26.5%

Table 3: Shea's stats before and after the all-star break

Langeliers's bat was not his most heralded aspect as a prospect. His power was the exciting part, and hopefully, he will continue to flash an ISO north of .200; it will likely

be necessary with his batting average continuing to toe the Mendoza line and his OBP being south of .270.

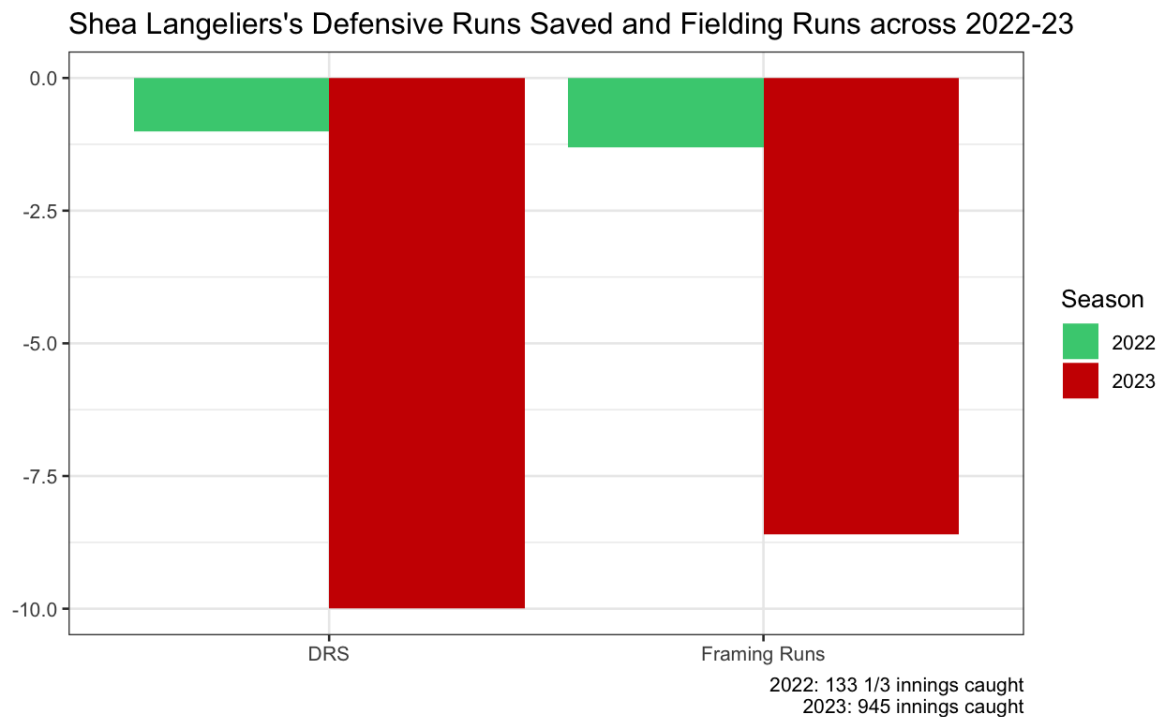
A Mixed Bag

Langeliers was a top prospect primarily for his ability behind the dish. How has his defense has looked?

Season	Innings	FanGraphs Defensive Runs
2022	133 $\frac{1}{3}$	-2.8
2023	945	1.8

Table 4: Langeliers's defensive value across 2022-23

So according to Fangraphs, Langeliers's defensive value is improving, but advanced stats are really not a fan of him.



However, while Langeliers appears to be a butcher when receiving the ball, he's near the top of the league at throwing runners out. Pipeline gave him a 70-grade arm, and it's clearly showing in 2023. He leads the league in Runners Caught Stealing (36) and he ranks fourth in CS% (32.7%). This combination makes his Baseball Savant defensive percentiles section look absolutely bizarre.

The Toolshed

Langeliers is still developing both his offensive and defensive game, but there is one aspect that his already translated: his raw athleticism. It shows in his raw power, his huge arm, and also, his speed.



For a catcher, Langeliers is fast. Abnormally fast. He's one of the fastest catchers in baseball. On Fangraphs, his speed score is sixth, and he has an 80th percentile sprint speed on Baseball Savant.

So overall, the verdict on Langeliers is that the expected results trump the actual results. Hopefully, he will start to noticeably improve, as he gets no shortage of reps on a miserable A's team where the only other catchers are Carlos Perez and an undercooked Tyler Soderstrom.



References

- [1] Fiume, Greg. Photograph of Shea Langeliers. "A's Shea Langeliers 'learning to adapt' to major-league pitching" by Matt Kawahara, 21 Sept. 2022. San Francisco Chronicle, [link](#).
- [2] Statistics taken from Baseball-Reference, Baseball Savant and FanGraphs.
- [3] Visualizations done in R with the ggplot2 package.
- [4] Gutierrez, Tony. The Athletics' Shea Langeliers, a former Braves prospect, walks back to the dugout after striking out during the seventh inning Tuesday night against the Rangers in Arlington, Texas. "Former Braves prospect Shea Langeliers makes major-league debut for Oakland" by AJC Sports, 17 Aug. 2022. *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* [link](#).