— Written Scouting Report Samples —

NATE SNEAD, 2025 COL RHP: Snead gets into his back leg well, though he's a short strider. He has a longer arm spiral but the arm is on time at foot strike. There is good transverse separation between his upper and lower half. His disconnection and external rotation appear closer to average. Snead repeats his mechanics well (landing spot, release point, and low ¾ arm slot included). It's a very rhythmic, low to medium-effort delivery. He displays considerable strength with room to fill out, but closer to average flexibility and range of motion.

All of Snead's offerings stand out due to their impressive velocity. There may be potential for more consistent elite velocity as he fills out and/or increases his flexibility. While velocity is the most important single trait a pitch can have, his pitch shapes mostly trend fringe-average. Cutting down on the active spin on his slider and killing more spin on his changeup could help those play better. I doubt has the range of motion or pronation/supination ability to make any far more significant additions to his arsenal. I like the control because of his athleticism and how he repeats his mechanics, but I'm seeing control over command given the quantity and quality of missed targets in video looks. Snead should be given a chance to start in pro ball, but I project that he falls back on his high floor as a reliever. He would be a target in rounds 3-4 in the draft.

SI	CF	CH	SL	CB	Control	FV
60	45	50	50	40	50	40+

SPENCER SCHWELLENBACH, BRAVES RHP: Out of the stretch, Schwellenbach drops quickly into his back leg and eliminates his glove tap. He is very quick to the plate, with most times clocking in around 1.15 seconds. In both the windup and the stretch, he displays clean arm action, a short arm spiral, and a medium-low ¾ slot. His arm is on time at foot strike. Despite being extremely directional towards the plate, he creates good angular velocity through separation/disconnection. He loads his back leg well and has decent extension down the mound leading into a strong blocking leg. Overall, his mechanics are clean, simple, efficient, and extremely repeatable.

Schwellenbach offers a wide variety of movement types, each with above average velocity for a starter. The pitches that stand out the most are his four seam (mid-high 90s with enough carry to play decently well from his medium low release height) and slider (high 80s with downward bite). He throws three legitimately distinct fastballs. The breaking balls appear to tunnel well together, and the splitter gives him an above average armside weapon. Everything should play up because of his command, which I grade out as plus. Beyond the mechanics and athleticism, he hit targets and avoided bad misses with machine-like consistency in visual looks. I project him as a 2-3 starter, who could provide 3-4 WAR per year.

FB	SI	CF	SL	CB	SF	Control	FV
60	50	55	60	50	55	60	55

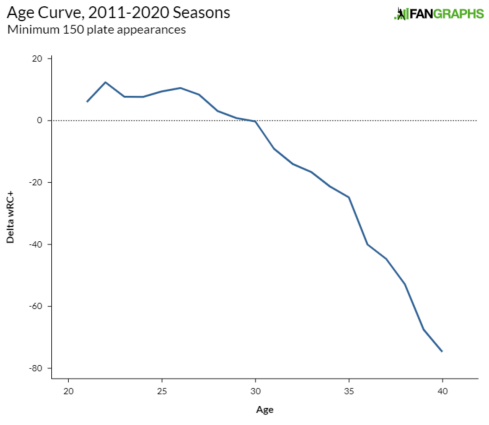
JAMES WOOD, NATIONALS OF: Wood has a very slight bat waggle as he begins his small leg kick, but his hands remain quiet throughout. He has no issues getting the barrel on plane early, contributing to his clean bat path and giving him a fairly wide contact window. He tends to swing with a slight uppercut—an attack angle of maybe 15°, which is suitable for a player with his ability to impact the baseball. He rotates well and has exceptional bat speed. For someone with levers as long as his, he does a pretty good job at keeping his hands in on inside pitches. I'd grade his bat control as above average. He does exhibit some knee bend on lower pitches, which are tougher to cover given his height and tall, upright stance. This might help explain the ground ball rate.

Wood makes above average swing decisions. His swing rate is low, but his at bats don't read as overly passive. He has a huge frame and good body control. There should be a little room to fill out—he's still somewhat skinny despite his broad shoulders—but the raw power is already double plus, judging by bat speed and exit velocities. The whiffs will likely be fringy to below average, but that's mostly due to Wood's size. There's little in the swing to indicate he won't be able to capitalize on most pitches in the zone.

His arm, outfield jumps, and routes look fringe to average in brief video looks. I don't have the best read on his speed given the video format, but it appears to be above average and he's athletic, which is more than enough for him to grow into a quality defender in left. I don't see him moving up or down the defensive spectrum soon. I project that he posts 4-5 WAR per year in his prime.

HIT	PWR	RUN	ARM	FLD	FV
55	65	55	50	50	60

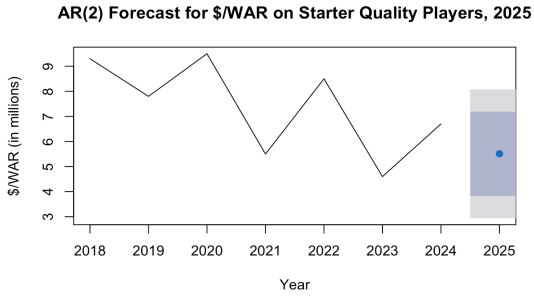
MODELING A PRE-ARB EXTENSION: Young position players are signed to pre-arbitration extensions far more often than pitchers for a few reasons, including the pronounced risk of career-altering injury. The arm is a complicated thing. Still, when comparing two players for these purposes, they must be compared as individuals. Schwellenbach should be an innings eater with a high floor, and he doesn't have much mileage on the arm to date. However, he has already completed his age 24 season, and has 6 years of team control remaining. His team will already be able to retain him at low cost through his age 30 season. Regardless of the exact effects of aging on MLB players today, this is past most players' physical prime. James Wood just finished his age 21 season and has 6 years of team control remaining. His ceiling is very rarely found on the open market, so this extension is a better fit for him.



In order to find realistic terms for extending James Wood, I will first look at some recent comparable pre-arbitration extensions. These will be more useful to me than any value projection system I have access to, especially so early into Wood's career. These are all recently signed outfielders with similar prospect pedigree, ages, and experience prior to signing their extensions—though each had better defensive projections, and provided more value in their first look at the big leagues than Wood (79 G, 1.2 fWAR).

Player	**Season (Age)**	**Prior Experience**	**General Terms**
Ronald Acuña Jr.	2019 (21)	111 G, ROY, 4.4 fWAR	8 yrs, $100m, 2 additional $17m club options
Julio Rodriguez	2022 (21)	132 G, ROY, 5.8 fWAR	7 yrs, $119.3m w/ incentives. Club option which becomes 5 years of player options at $18m if declined.
Corbin Carroll	2023 (22)	32 G, 1.4 fWAR	8 yrs, $111m, club option for $13.875m

I propose an 8 year, $104m contract with an additional $20m club option. Wood would reach free agency after his age 29 or 30 season, depending on the status of the option. The team gains 2-3 more years of team control on a player in his physical prime. Using prior data and a time series model, I projected how much money teams will spend per WAR on 2+ WAR projected players on the open market in 2025 ($5.51m/WAR). Depending on the option, Wood would have to produce 18.9 or 22.5 WAR over the length of the contract in order to "make good" on that contract relative to value projections. That's 2.4-2.5 WAR/yr, which is below my peak projections for Wood.



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