

SHANE BIEBER V. CLEVELAND INDIANS - 2021



Career Stats

Year	Games	Game Started	Innings Pitched	Wins	Loss	Quality Starts	ERA	WHIP	FIP	ERA+	ERC	K	BB	WS	rWAR	fWAR
2018	20	19	114.2	11	5	8	4.55	1.33	3.23	95	4.23	118	23	6.6	0.9	2.6
2019	34	33	214.1	25	8	24	3.28	1.054	3.32	147	2.941	259	40	18.7	4.6	5.6
2020	12	12	77.1	8	1	10	1.63	0.866	2.07	281	1.593	122	21	10.8	3.2	3.2

Player Attributes

- **Age:** 25
- **Height:** 6'3"
- **Weight:** 200lbs
- **Team:** Cleveland Indians
- **College:** UCSB (University of California Santa Barbara)
- **Drafted:** Round 4, 122nd overall to Cleveland
- **Arbitration Year 1**

Our Salary Submission: [\\$\(template placeholder\)](#)

Introduction

From previous cases, we know that the Panel evaluates based on: player quality to the club in the past season, length and consistency of career performance, past compensation, comparative salaries based upon similar performance, and if the player has a history of physical or mental defects. We have based our argument based upon these measures.

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Player Argument

Awards

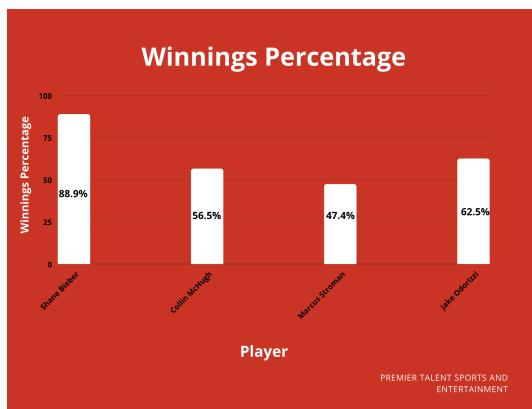
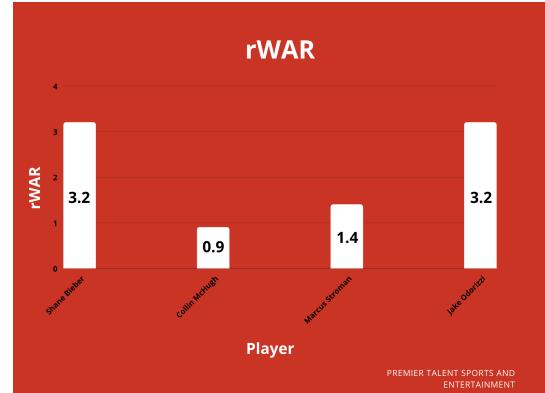
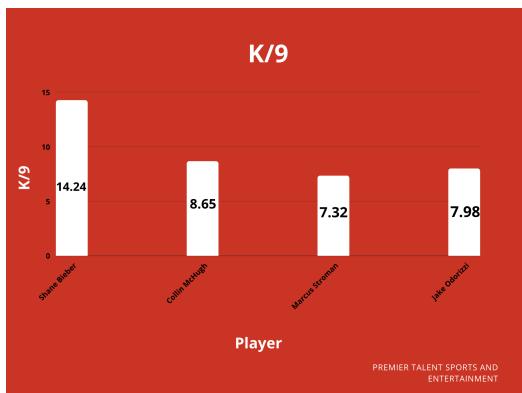
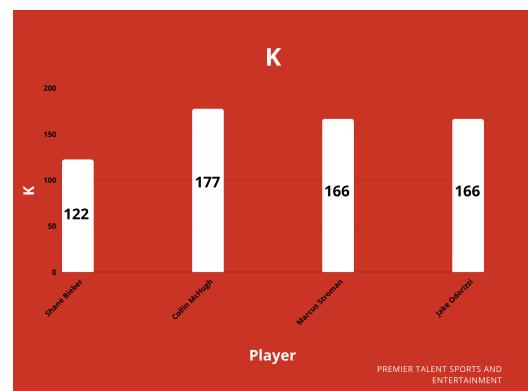
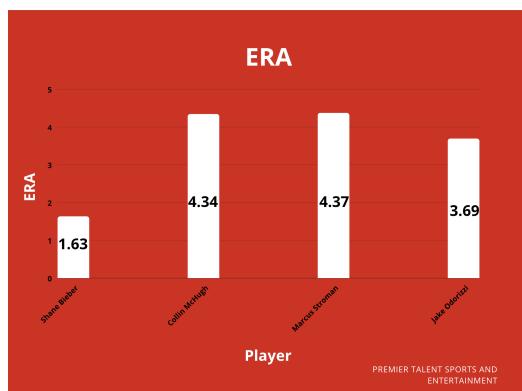
- Awarded the 2020 AL Cy Young unanimously with 100% of 1st place votes.
- Awarded the Triple Crown 2020. First pitcher to win it since Clayton Kershaw and Justin Verlander did this in 2011.
- All-MLB First Team 2020. One of five starting pitchers to be represented.
- 2020 July/August AL Pitcher of the month
- 2019 All Star
 - All Star Game MVP (Struck Out the side on 19 pitches in the 5th inning)
 - 4th place in AL Cy Young voting in 2019

Rare Statistics

In 2020, Bieber led the league in:

- Wins (8)
- ERA (1.63)
- Strikeouts (122)
- AL rWAR (3.2)
- Winnings Percentage (.889)
- Fewest H/9 (5.353)
- K/9 (14.198)
- **QS/GS:** Bieber was extremely valuable to the Indians as he consistently went deep into the games he started as a pitcher, making life easier on his bullpen teammates. He posted quality starts (6+ innings pitched with less than or equal to 3 runs allowed) in 10 out of his 12 starts (83.33%). The argument of frequently pitching more than 6+ IP per start has helped former arbitration cases be decided favored to player arguments.
- **K:** Upon reaching 50 innings for the season, Bieber had tallied 84 strikeouts, the most by a starting pitcher in MLB history in that span, according to the [Elias Sports Bureau](#).
 - **K:** Fastest player to 100 strikeouts in a season ever in 2020 (100K in 62 $\frac{1}{3}$ innings).

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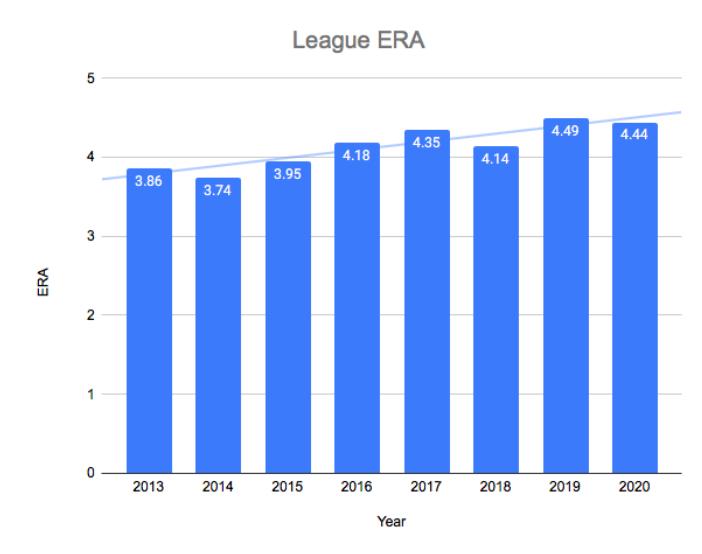
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2nd Half of Season

- Team success led the Cleveland Indians to the Playoffs
 - The Indians were the number 3 seed in the 2018 playoffs.
 - The Indians were the number 4 seed in the 2020 playoffs.

Excelled in an Unfavorable Environment

- Despite the league average ERA in 2020 of 4.44, Bieber thrived in an unfavorable environment with an ERA of 1.63, a 2.81 difference. He had the lowest ERA of all qualified pitchers. The lowest ERA leader since Jacob deGrom led the league with a 1.70 ERA in 2018.



Quotes about Shane from Cleveland Management

- In 2020, Cleveland's pitching coach said he is pleased with Bieber's pitches, specifically his devastating changeup.
- Cleveland's manager, Terry Francona, praised him for having, "the ability to throw any pitch at any spot in the count," and that, "he's got enough fastball to get it by you. I don't think I've ever seen this with a pitcher where he's got a curveball and a slider that are almost the identical speed that just have different break, and then he has the cutter to go with it and the changeup. He just has a lot of ways to attack you."

Past Compensation

- Shane Bieber's salaries for the first 3 seasons of his career are as follows:
 - In 2018, his salary was \$545,000
 - In 2019, his salary was \$559,600
 - In 2020, his salary was \$623,200 (pre-Covid adjusted)
- Jacob deGrom had a similar career trajectory and was paid similar salaries in his first 3 years.
 - In 2014, his salary was \$500,000
 - In 2015 his salary was \$556,875
 - In 2016, his salary was \$607,000

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- In 2019, a season where deGrom was arbitration eligible and when he was coming fresh off of winning the Cy Young award, just like Shane Bieber did this year, he was awarded a \$17,000,000 dollar salary. We think this is a fair salary figure that Shane Bieber should be paid next season.

Player Comparisons and Salaries

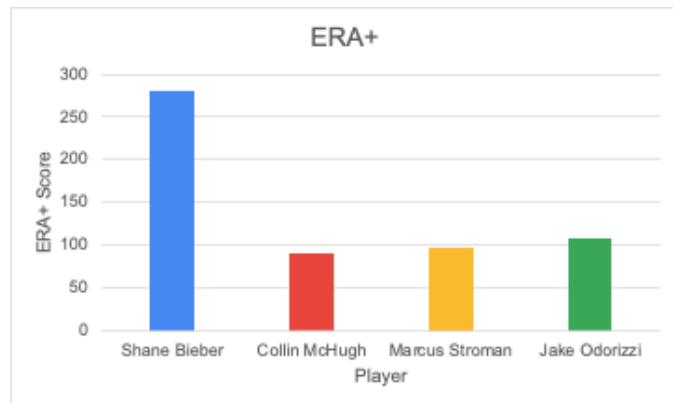
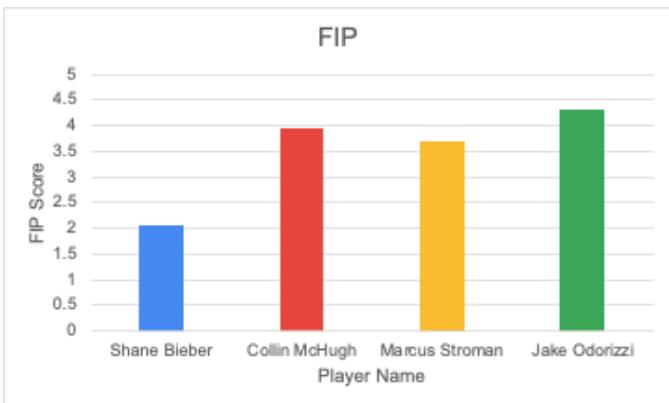
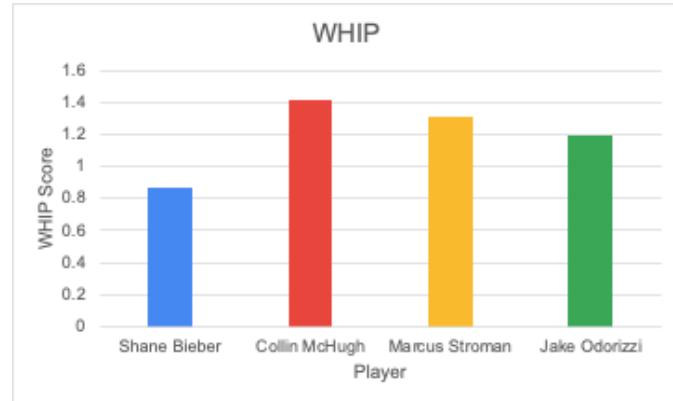
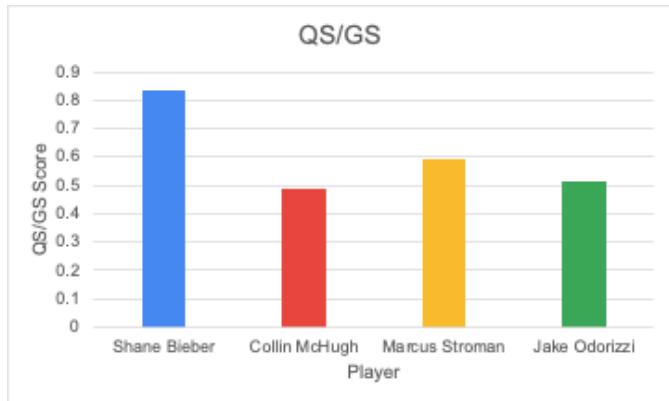
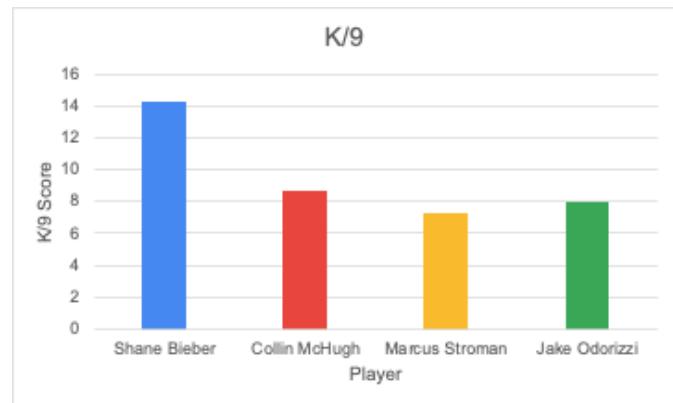
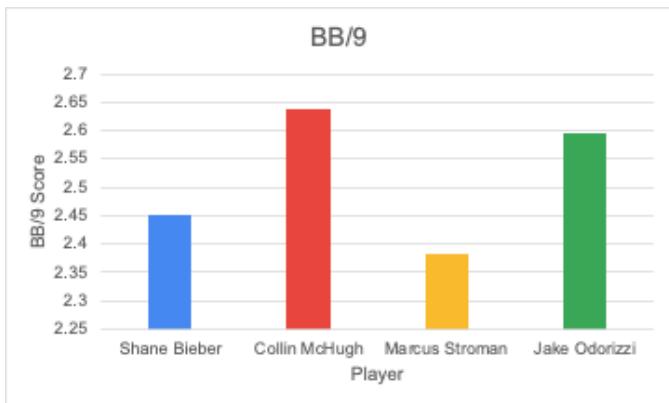
- Collin McHugh '16 (\$3.85m from \$529,000 - \$3.321m raise):
 - McHugh had an ERA of 4.34 compared to Bieber's ERA of 1.63 in their PYs. Both players were comparable in fWAR but Bieber had an additional 2.3 in rWAR, despite pitching fewer games due to a shortened season. Also, McHugh has never been an All-Star or Cy Young winner.
- Marcus Stroman '16 (\$3.4m from \$515,900 - \$2.884m raise):
 - Both Bieber and Stroman were Opening Day starters and both started game 1 of their first playoff series. Stroman and Bieber had very similar fWAR despite Bieber pitching less. Bieber had a ERA+ of 281 compared to Stroman's 97 in their PY. Also, Bieber finished the season with more award recognition.
- Jake Odorizzi '16 (\$4.1m from \$520,700 - \$3.579m raise):
 - Odorizzi landed on the ten-day IL with lower back strain. Had comparable WHIP with Odorizzi at 1.19 and Bieber at 0.866. In their PYs, both players had the same exact rWAR of 3.2 though Odorizzi was able to pitch more games.

Physical/Mental Defects

- Shane Bieber has been extremely durable and healthy throughout his career. He has had no major injuries besides testing positive for COVID-19 in 2021. This is a good sign for a player that is 25 years old. With further improvements to technology and access to training staff, we see no reason for Shane to wear out his arm anytime soon.

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Comparison of Stats



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