



BOSTON RED SOX

American League East



9874
FRANCHISE WINS

78-84
2023 SEASON

5th
DIVISION

#16
FARM SYSTEM RANK

Boston, MA - Fenway Park (37,755)
Manager: Alex Cora (440-370, 6th Season)

Escaping The AL East Basement

The Red Sox have now suffered back-to-back last place finishes in the extremely competitive AL East despite being just two years removed from a trip to the ALCS. Even though Boston made some notable free agent signings and entered with expectations of improvement in 2023, Boston finished with an identical record in 2023 (78-84) to the 2022 season. In the offseason, the club let Chief of Baseball Operations Chaim Bloom hit the job market in favor of Craig Breslow, a former Sox reliever whose history includes two World Series rings. The division is as challenging as ever in 2024, but Breslow is hopeful that free agent additions and a potential youth movement move the Red Sox in the right direction.

Batting

The 2023 free agent signings of **Masataka Yoshida**, Justin Turner, and **Adam Duvall** gave the Red Sox an early season spark on offense. Despite several injuries, Boston stayed in the top ten in Major League Baseball in batting average, OPS, and runs nearly all season. The vast improvement of **Jarren Duran** in centerfield and behind the plate was a welcome surprise as Alex Verdugo struggled defensively and Raimel Tapia didn't pan out. **Tyler O'Neill** is a two-time gold glove in the outfield and joins Boston after six seasons with the Cardinals.

Second baseman and shortstop **Trevor Story** is the player with the most to prove in the 2024 season. His defensive expertise has offset his streaky hitting, but he hasn't been able to perform at a level to warrant the 6-year, \$140 million deal he signed in 2022. With the additions of **Vaughn Grissom**, **Emmanuel Valdez**, and the surprising play of **Pablo Reyes**, Story has little breathing room for another season hindered by injuries or subpar play. Watch out for two key young rookies in **Wilyer Abreu** and **Ceddanne Rafaela**. They both made just one error after being thrown into the lineup due to injuries. Abreu is rock solid in the outfield and played all three positions. He tracks the ball extremely well and has a strong arm to keep runners at bay.

Rafael Devers continues to be a reliable option at the plate and he's slugged .500 or better in each of the last three seasons while missing just 36 games in that same time span. His defense is shaky at best, but it's hard to argue with the power his bat produces and his plate discipline is an added bonus. Yoshida proved he can hit for average in his first year in the majors. Expect young **Triston Casas** to play a major role in the middle of the lineup at his first base position.

Pitching

Pitching was a strength for the Red Sox in 2022, but in 2023 starting pitchers struggled to make it deep into games with the exception of **Brayan Bello**. The Sox were 25th in quality starts with only 47 (Bello had 15 of them) and they finished 21st with a team ERA of 4.52. Ironically, the bullpen, which was the downfall of the team in 2022, suddenly became one of the best in MLB last year. **Brennan Bernadino**, **Josh Winckowski**, **Chris Martin**, and **Nick Pivetta** were all solid in relief with sub-3.50 ERAs. The issue moving forward will be keeping all four of those players healthy as each player missed at least 10+ games.

The starting rotation on Opening Day will look vastly different from last season with the departures of Chris Sale and Corey Kluber, the emergence of Bello, and the arrival of **Lucas Giolito**. In the past, Giolito has been brilliant but he couldn't keep the ball in the yard last season, allowing an AL-high 40 home runs. **Kutter Crawford** hopes to cement his promotion to the rotation alongside of **Tanner Houck**. **Chris Murphy** could vie for a rotation spot, especially if Boston opts to keep Pivetta in the bullpen in 2024. The ceiling for this staff is high with a strong catching duo, the defensive stalwart **Connor Wong** and his complementary offensive backstop, **Reese McGuire**. It's worth noting that there are a couple of quality arms still available in free agency at the time of this article, so it's possible Boston could improve the pitching staff even more. With the kinds of offenses that the AL East wields, it's probably not a bad idea.

The Bottom Line

In 2023, Red Sox fans were optimistic by an offseason of signings after a disappointing campaign that saw the team fail to make the postseason just a year following an ALCS appearance. This year, the youth movement continues for the Boys from Beantown. The three keys to a successful Red Sox team in 2024 are a revival of the starting pitching dominance of years' past, consistency of play in the middle infield, and the continued output of the young bats. The competition in the AL East is as challenging as it's ever been and, at face value, it doesn't seem like the club made enough offseason moves to match up with the likes of the Orioles or Yankees.

2024 Projection: 80-82, 5th in AL East

Rafael Devers



Photo via MassLive



2023 MLB Ranks

RPG - 4.77 (11th)
HITS - 1437 (4th)
HR - 182 (18th)
ERA - 4.52 (21st)
SO - 1423 (15th)
FD% - .982% (28th)

RED SOX

Brayan Bello

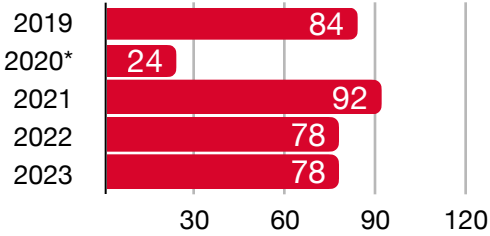


Photo via Sports Illustrated

Projected Lineup			'23 AVG
16	Jarren Duran	CF	.295
11	Rafael Devers	3B	.271
36	Triston Casas	1B	.263
10	Trevor Story	SS	.203
7	Masataka Yoshida	DH	.289
17	Tyler O'Neill	LF	.231
52	Wilyer Abreu	RF	.316
5	Vaughn Grissom	2B	.280
12	Connor Wong	C	.235

Projected Rotation			'23 ERA
54	Lucas Giolito	SP	4.88
66	Brayan Bello	SP	4.24
37	Nick Pivetta	SP	4.24
89	Tanner Houck	SP	5.01
50	Kutter Crawford	SP	4.04
74	Kenley Jansen	CL	3.63

RED SOX 5-YEAR WIN TREND



0.63 < Number to Know

The number of errors per game by the Red Sox in 2023, making them the third-worst defense team in MLB (Boston's fielding percentage of .982 was also third-worst).



Photo via Eater Boston

PROSPECT TO WATCH Nick Yorke - 2B

The soon to be 22-year-old has a stable contact approach to the plate with moderate power. He rarely makes mistakes in the field and is a pure second baseman. Though he has stiff competition throughout the Boston system both ahead of and behind him, his bat amplifies his potential usefulness on the orange clay of Fenway. He clearly improved his game in the minors from 2022 to 2023, elevating his average from .232 in High-A ball to .268 in Double-A. His walk numbers also took a healthy step forward. The next step in Yorke's journey to The Show will be, presumably, navigating Triple-A pitching in 2024. He's been willing to put in the work to improve his game and a 2025 MLB debut is a reasonable goal for the 2020 first-rounder.



Photo via Providence Journal

2024 Schedule

March/April 2024											
				SEA 10:10	SEA 9:40	SEA 9:40	SEA 9:40	SEA 9:40	SEA 9:40	SEA 9:40	SEA 9:40
SEA 4:10	OAK 9:40	OAK 9:40	OAK 3:37		LAA 9:38	LAA 9:38	LAA 9:38	LAA 9:38	LAA 9:38	LAA 9:38	LAA 9:38
LAA 4:07		BAL 2:10	BAL 3:37	BAL 7:10	BAL 7:10	BAL 7:10	BAL 7:10	BAL 7:10	BAL 7:10	BAL 7:10	BAL 7:10
LAA 1:35	CLE 11:10a	CLE 7:10	CLE 7:10	CLE 1:35	CLE 1:35	CLE 1:35	CLE 1:35	CLE 1:35	CLE 1:35	CLE 1:35	CLE 1:35
PIT 1:35		CLE 6:10	CLE 6:10	CLE 1:10	CLE 1:10	CLE 1:10	CLE 1:10	CLE 1:10	CLE 1:10	CLE 1:10	CLE 1:10
CHC 7:00		SF 7:10									

May 2024											
			SF 7:10	SF 1:35	MIN 8:10	MIN 2:10	MIN 2:10	MIN 2:10	MIN 2:10	MIN 2:10	MIN 2:10
MIN 2:10		ATL 7:20	ATL 7:20		WSH 7:10	WSH 4:10	WSH 4:10	WSH 4:10	WSH 4:10	WSH 4:10	WSH 4:10
WSH 1:35	TB 7:10	TB 7:10	TB 7:10	TB 7:10	TB 7:10	TB 7:10	TB 7:10	TB 7:10	TB 7:10	TB 7:10	TB 7:10
STL 2:15	TB 6:50	TB 6:50	TB 6:50	TB 6:50	TB 6:50	TB 6:50	TB 6:50	TB 6:50	TB 6:50	TB 6:50	TB 6:50
MIL 1:35	BAL 1:05	BAL 6:35	BAL 6:35	DET 7:10	DET 7:10	DET 7:10	DET 7:10	DET 7:10	DET 7:10	DET 7:10	DET 7:10

June 2024											
										DET 4:10	DET 4:10
DET 1:35		ATL 7:10	ATL 1:35	CWS 8:10	CWS 8:10	CWS 8:10	CWS 8:10	CWS 8:10	CWS 8:10	CWS 8:10	CWS 8:10
CWS 2:10		PHI 7:10	PHI 7:10	PHI 7:10	PHI 7:10	PHI 7:10	PHI 7:10	PHI 7:10	PHI 7:10	PHI 7:10	PHI 7:10
NYG 7:00	TOR 7:07	TOR 7:07	TOR 7:07	TOR 7:07	TOR 7:07	TOR 7:07	TOR 7:07	TOR 7:07	TOR 7:07	TOR 7:07	TOR 7:07
CIN 1:40	TOR 7:10	TOR 7:10	TOR 7:10	TOR 7:10	TOR 7:10	TOR 7:10	TOR 7:10	TOR 7:10	TOR 7:10	TOR 7:10	TOR 7:10
SD 1:35											

July 2024											
		MIA 6:40	MIA 6:40	MIA 1:10	NYG 7:05	NYG 1:05	NYG 1:05	NYG 1:05	NYG 1:05	NYG 1:05	NYG 1:05
NYG 1:35		OAK 7:10	OAK 7:10	OAK 7:10	KC 7:10	KC 4:10	KC 4:10	KC 4:10	KC 4:10	KC 4:10	KC 4:10
KC 1:35		All-Star Break - Arlington, TX						LAD 10:10	LAD 7:15	LAD 7:15	LAD 7:15
LAD 4:10	COL 8:40	COL 8:40	COL 8:40	COL 3:10							
NYG 1:35	SEA 7:10	SEA 7:10	SEA 7:10	SEA 4:10							

August 2024											
								TEX 8:05	TEX 7:05	TEX 7:05	TEX 7:05
TEX 2:35	KC 8:10	KC 8:10	KC 8:10	KC 8:10				HOU 7:10	HOU 4:10	HOU 4:10	HOU 4:10
HOU 1:35	TEX 7:10	TEX 7:10	TEX 7:10	TEX 6:10	BAL 6:35	BAL 7:05	BAL 7:05	BAL 7:05	BAL 7:05	BAL 7:05	BAL 7:05
BAL 1:35	HOU 8:10	HOU 8:10	HOU 8:10	HOU 2:10				ARI 7:10	ARI 4:10	ARI 4:10	ARI 4:10
ARI 1:35	TOR 7:10	TOR 7:10	TOR 7:10	TOR 7:10	TOR 7:10	TOR 7:10	TOR 7:10	DET 6:40	DET 6:10	DET 6:10	DET 6:10

September 2024											
DET 1:40	NYM 7:10	NYM 7:10	NYM 7:10	NYM 7:10				CWS 7:10	CWS 7:15	CWS 7:15	CWS 7:15
CWS 1:35	BAL 7:10	BAL 7:10	BAL 7:10	BAL 7:10	NYG 7:05	NYG 7:05	NYG 7:05	NYG 7:05	NYG 7:05	NYG 7:05	NYG 7:05
NYG 1:35		TB 6:50	TB 6:50	TB 6:50	TB 6:50	TB 6:50	TB 6:50	MIN 7:10	MIN 4:10	MIN 4:10	MIN 4:10
MIN 1:35	TOR 7:07	TOR 7:07	TOR 7:07	TOR 7:07				TB 7:10	TB 4:10	TB 4:10	TB 4:10
TB 3:05											

HOME AWAY