



# OAKLAND ATHLETICS

American League West



**9260**  
FRANCHISE WINS

**50-112**  
2023 SEASON

**5th**  
DIVISION

**#26**  
FARM SYSTEM RANK

Oakland, CA - Oakland Coliseum (56,782)  
Manager: Mark Kotsay (110-214, 3rd Season)

## Final Season in Oakland Won't Be Pretty

The one word that best describes the Oakland Athletics' organization for the past two seasons is dysfunctional. Since trading Matt Olson, Matt Chapman, and other starters after the 2021 season, the product that Oakland has put on the field has been poor, to be kind. Ownership has seemed more concerned with cutting payroll and moving the team to Las Vegas than actually making moves to improve the team. With all of that in mind, the A's performance was expectedly terrible in 2023 as they went 50-112 and were eliminated from playoff contention before the end of August.

### Batting

There were a couple of bright spots for Oakland in their lineup through 2023; rookie second baseman **Zack Gelof** joined the team after the All-Star break and put up 14 home runs and 14 steals. **Shea Langeliers** was acquired from the Braves for Matt Olson and while he didn't have a good batting average last year, he did provide power with 22 homers. **Brent Rooker** got his first shot at regular playing time and put up a 30 home run season and should continue to be a power threat moving forward. **Esteury Ruiz** led the American League with 67 steals and is a capable defender in center field, though he doesn't provide much offensively other than his base running. **Seth Brown** and **JJ Bleday** will make up the rest of the Oakland outfield. Bleday is a former top five pick who hasn't yet lived up to his potential at the major league level, while Brown is a left-handed power threat.

First baseman **Ryan Noda** strikes out a lot and doesn't hit for average, but he does get on base a lot through walks and also has decent power. **Abraham Toro** is projected to start at third base and has bounced around to a few different teams throughout his career. Oakland is hoping that consistent playing time will help Toro to improve, as he debuted in 2019 and hasn't shown much with the bat to this point. Rookie **Darrell Hernaiz** will get a shot as the starting shortstop after having an excellent 2023 season in the minors, hitting .321 with 45 extra base hits and 13 steals. Utility man **Aledmys Diaz** doesn't provide much with the bat, but he is a valuable defender off the bench who can play multiple positions. Oakland will also be hoping that **Miguel Andujar**, a former Rookie of the Year runner-up with the Yankees, can recover the form of his amazing 2018 rookie season and become a major league contributor once again. However, since a shoulder injury derailed his 2019 season, he hasn't had nearly as much success at the plate and he won't provide much defensively.

### Pitching

Oakland may have a glimmer of hope offensively, but the pitching staff is unfortunately another story. Athletics pitching was a total disaster in 2023, finishing last in the AL with an absurd team ERA of 5.48. The "ace" of the staff is **JP Sears**, a durable and decent pitcher who started 32 games last year, though he doesn't strikeout a lot of hitters and his 4.54 ERA was below league average. **Paul Blackburn** was an All-Star in 2022 and is another respectable pitcher, though he is similar to Sears with a low strikeout rate. Former Dodgers and Giant **Alex Wood** joins Oakland this year and he's been a decent pitcher throughout his career, though it has been a couple of years since he has been consistently effective. **Ross Stripling** is another newcomer to the staff. While he had a poor showing in 2023, as recently as 2022 he was a very effective pitcher for the Blue Jays. **Luis Medina** is a former highly ranked prospect but he had a rough debut in the majors last year.

Top prospect **Mason Miller** will likely get a shot at being the Oakland closer. Miller has a triple digit fastball but has struggled to stay on the field due to injury. **Lucas Erceg** strikes out his fair share of hitters but he also walks a lot of hitters and gives up a lot of contact. **Dany Jimenez** was a bright spot out of the bullpen with a 3.47 ERA in 23 innings at the end of the season. **Scott Alexander** has been a good pitcher out of the bullpen and as a spot starter in the past, though he joins Oakland after a rough 2023 campaign in San Francisco.

### The Bottom Line

2023 was a very rough year for Oakland and their fans and it's difficult to see how 2024 will be much better. Owner John Fisher continues to cut payroll to the bone and seemingly can't be bothered to even try to put a halfway decent team on the field. Even all of the trades that the A's made hasn't seemed to improve their farm system as they are still ranked towards the bottom of the league by multiple publications. The biggest news surrounding the Athletics last season was the revelation that possums are living in the press box as well as two "reverse boycotts" where fans packed the ballpark to protest ownership and demand that the team be sold to someone who cares. 2024 is very likely the last year that the Athletics play in Oakland. MLB owners approved a move to Las Vegas, but even that move is uncertain with stadium approval still pending and the mayor being noncommittal at best. Unfortunately, it looks like Oakland players and fans will have to go through another year dealing with one of the most incompetent owners in sports while hoping that they don't break the major league record for losses in a season.

**2024 Projection: 48-114, 5th in AL West**

**Zack Gelof**

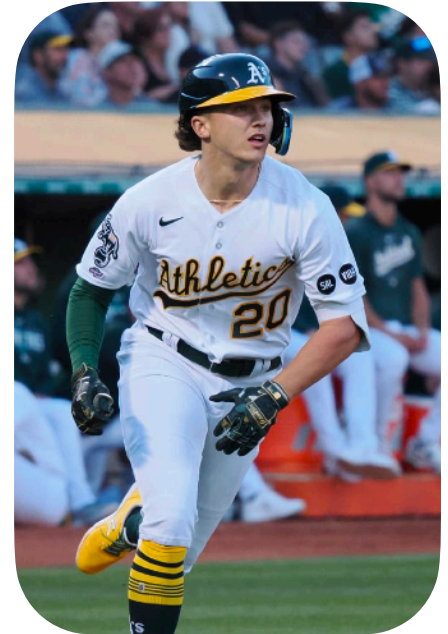



Photo via Sports Illustrated



**2023 MLB Ranks**  
 RPG - 3.61 (30th)  
 HITS - 1187 (30th)  
 HR - 171 (21st)  
 ERA - 5.48 (29th)  
 SO - 1300 (26th)  
 FD% - .982% (28th)

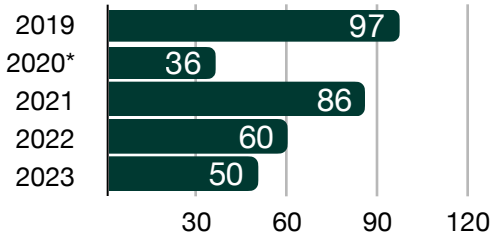
# OAKLAND

## JP Sears



Photo via Sports Illustrated

## ATHLETICS 5-YEAR WIN TREND



## 10,275 < Number to Know

Oakland's average attendance for 2023, a major league worst. This figure would be even worse if not for two "reverse boycotts". With the product on the field, who can blame the fans?

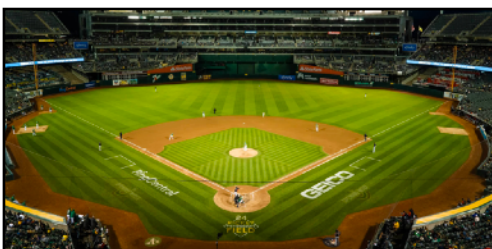


Photo via Ticketmaster

## PROSPECT TO WATCH Mason Miller - P

Even though the A's have traded several big name players over the last couple of years, Oakland's farm system is surprisingly light on impact prospects. Mason Miller is currently the Athletic's #2 prospect per MLB Pipeline and he has shown a very good fastball and slider, with 69 Ks in 39 innings in his minor league career. Unfortunately, Miller has historically struggled to stay on the field due to injury, starting a total of only 21 games over the past three seasons. He did make six starts in the big leagues in 2023 with a very respectable 3.78 ERA. Oakland plans on using Miller as a reliever in hopes that he can stay healthy with a lower workload. With his triple digit fastball, he will likely get some save opportunities.



Photo via Sports Illustrated

Projected Lineup				'23 AVG
49	Ryan Noda	1B	.229	
20	Zack Gelof	2B	.267	
25	Brent Rooker	DH	.246	
15	Seth Brown	RF	.222	
23	Shea Langeliers	C	.205	
33	JJ Bleday	LF	.195	
1	Esteury Ruiz	CF	.254	
31	Abraham Toro	3B	.444	
10	Darell Hernaiz	SS	.221	

Projected Rotation				'23 ERA
38	JP Sears	SP	4.54	
58	Paul Blackburn	SP	4.43	
57	Alex Wood	SP	4.33	
36	Ross Stripling	SP	5.36	
46	Luis Medina	SP	5.42	
19	Mason Miller	CL	3.78	

## PLAYER SPOTLIGHT Esteury Ruiz - OF



### 2023 Statistics

GP AVG OPS HR RBI  
**130 .254 .654 5 47**

While Ronald Acuña Jr. led MLB with 73 stolen bases, Ruiz wasn't far behind with his 67 steals. Ruiz's total is even more impressive considering that he played 27 less games than Acuña. There is a lot of room for improvement in Ruiz's game as he's not someone who will provide a lot of power (just five homers in 2023) and his OPS was just .654 with a .309 on-base percentage. However, he is still only 24 years old, and if he can find a way to get on base more consistently, it's staggering to think of the stolen base numbers he could reach.

## 2024 Schedule

### March/April 2024

					CLE 28 10:07	CLE 29 9:40	CLE 30 4:07
CLE 31 4:07	BOS 1 9:40	BOS 2 9:40	BOS 3 3:37		DET 5 1:10	DET 6 1:10	
DET 7 1:40		TEX 8 8:05	TEX 9 8:05	TEX 10 2:35	WSH 11 9:40	WSH 12 4:07	WSH 13 4:07
WSH 14 4:07	STL 15 9:40	STL 16 9:40	STL 17 3:37		CLE 18 7:10	CLE 19 6:10	CLE 20 6:10
CLE 21 1:40	NYN 22 1:05	NYN 23 7:05	NYN 24 7:05	NYN 25 7:05	BAL 26 7:05	BAL 27 4:05	BAL 28 4:05
BAL 29 1:35	PIT 9:40	PIT 30 9:40					

### May 2024

				PIT 1 3:37		MIA 3 9:40	MIA 4 4:07
MIA 5 4:07	TEX 6 9:40	TEX 7 3:37	TEX 8 (DH)		SEA 9 9:40	SEA 10 9:40	SEA 11 9:40
SEA 12 4:10	HOU 13 8:10	HOU 14 8:10	HOU 15 8:10	HOU 16 8:10	KC 17 7:40	KC 18 7:10	KC 19 4:07
KC 20 2:10		COL 21 9:40	COL 22 9:40	COL 23 3:37	HOU 24 9:40	HOU 25 4:07	HOU 26 4:07
HOU 27 4:07		TB 28 6:50	TB 29 6:50	TB 30 1:10	ATL 31 7:20		

### June 2024

						ATL 1 4:10	
ATL 2 1:35		SEA 4 9:40	SEA 5 9:40	SEA 6 3:37	TOR 7 9:40	TOR 8 4:07	
TOR 9 4:07	SD 10 9:40	SD 11 8:40	SD 12 4:10	MIN 13 7:40	MIN 14 8:10	MIN 15 2:10	MIN 16 2:10
MIN 17 2:10		KC 18 9:40	KC 19 9:40	KC 20 3:37	MIN 21 9:40	MIN 22 4:07	MIN 23 4:07
MIN 24 4:07	LAA 25 9:38	LAA 26 9:38	LAA 27 4:07		ARI 28 9:40	ARI 29 4:10	ARI 30 4:10

### July 2024

		LAA 2 9:40	LAA 3 9:40	LAA 4 4:07	BAL 5 9:40	BAL 6 4:07	
BAL 7 4:07		BOS 9 7:10	BOS 10 7:10	BOS 11 7:10	PHI 12 6:40	PHI 13 4:05	
PHI 14 1:35	All-Star Break - Arlington, TX					LAA 19 9:40	LAA 20 4:07
LAA 21 4:07	HOU 22 9:40	HOU 23 9:40	HOU 24 3:37	LAA 25 9:38	LAA 26 9:38	LAA 27 9:38	
LAA 28 4:07		SF 30 9:45	SF 31 9:45				

### August 2024

					LAD 2 9:40	LAD 3 9:07
LAD 4 4:07	CWS 5 9:40	CWS 6 9:40	CWS 7 3:37		TOR 9 7:07	TOR 10 3:07
TOR 11 1:37		NYM 13 7:10	NYM 14 7:10	NYM 15 1:10		SF 17 7:07
SF 18 4:07	TB 19 9:40	TB 20 9:40	TB 21 9:40	TB 22 3:37	MIL 23 9:40	MIL 24 4:07
MIL 25 4:07		CIN 27 6:40	CIN 28 6:40	CIN 29 5:10	TEX 30 8:05	TEX 31 7:05

### September 2024

TEX 1 2:35	SEA 2 7:07	SEA 3 9:40	SEA 4 9:40	SEA 5 3:37	DET 6 9:40	DET 7 4:07
DET 8 4:07		HOU 10 8:10	HOU 11 8:10	HOU 12 2:10	CWS 13 7:40	CWS 14 7:10
CWS 15 2:10	CHC 16 7:40	CHC 17 7:40	CHC 18 2:20		NYN 20 9:40	NYN 21 9:07
NYN 22 4:07		TEX 24 9:40	TEX 25 9:40	TEX 26 3:37	SEA 27 10:10	SEA 28 9:40
SEA 29 3:10						

HOME AWAY