

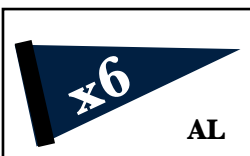


MINNESOTA TWINS

American League Central



x3



AL

9177

FRANCHISE WINS

87-75

2023 SEASON

1st

DIVISION

#17

FARM SYSTEM RANK

Minneapolis, MN - Target Field (38,544)

Manager: Rocco Baldelli (375-333, 6th Season)

2023: Lost in ALDS

Twins vs. The Field

For the third time in the last five seasons, the Twins claimed the AL Central division title. To top it off, the Twins finally erased their historic losing streak in the postseason and swept the Toronto Blue Jays out of the Wild Card round before falling to the Astros 3-1 in the ALDS. In 2024, the division appears to be the Twins to lose.

Batting

The Twins were ranked in the bottom half of baseball in hits, but they still scored 4.80 runs per game by virtue of hitting 233 home runs. The power helped to negate a whopping 1,654 strikeouts, a major league record. Every player in the projected lineup hit double digit home runs, including newcomer **Carlos Santana**. The Twins signed him to a 1 year, \$5.25 million contract after season which included a slash line of .240/.318/.429, 23 home runs, and 86 RBI. 14 years later, he can still draw a walk with the best of them. **Byron Buxton**'s career has been a huge "what if" as the injury bug has bitten in almost every season. Even though the Twins kept him at the DH position to help his body, a knee injury still sidelined him from August 1st onwards. This year, he talked his way into playing centerfield again, and he's since stated his excitement of being back in the field. His batting average dropped again in 2023 and he's only played 100+ games once in his 9-year career, but, on the bright side, he has All-Star potential if he can stay on the field. An ACL injury has kept **Royce Lewis** off the field, but when he's played he's been sensational and he was a postseason hero. After signing a big contract, shortstop **Carlos Correa** struggled at the plate and had a propensity to ground into double plays (an MLB-most 30 in 2023), although injuries played a factor, and he did hit 9 of 24 with an OPS of 1.038 in the postseason.

Rookie **Edouard Julien** was a huge bright spot for the Twins. He posted an on-base percentage of .381 after drawing 64 walks in just 109 games. **Matt Wallner** took a step forward in his sophomore year, albeit in a small sample size, hitting 14 home runs in only 213 at bats. He went 0-12 in the postseason, but his exit velocity jumped up well above the Major League average. **Ryan Jeffers** had a career year at the plate and will split time at catcher with **Christian Vázquez**. **Alex Kirilloff** can play both first and in the outfield and **Kyle Farmer** has likewise played multiple positions in his career.

Pitching

The Twins' pitching staff was tremendous in 2023. No team struck out more batters in the regular season and in the postseason, the Twins held the Blue Jays to just a single run in 18 innings. The Houston Astros got the better of Minnesota pitching, but, to be fair, the Astros tend to do that against very team they face. This year, the rotation looks quite different now that Sonny Gray, Kenta Maeda, and others are gone. **Pablo López** was an All-Star in 2023 and he pitched 194 innings with an ERA of 3.66. He was a key piece in a deal that sent batting champion Luis Arraez to the Marlins, a trade that both teams seem to have "won." He was the winning pitcher twice in the postseason. The Twins landed **Anthony DeSclafani** in a trade from the Mariners and **Joe Ryan**, **Bailey Ober**, and **Chris Paddack** round out the rotation. When Ryan keeps the ball in the yard, he can be very effective as demonstrated in 2022 and in the first half of 2023. Ober turned in a quality season in 2023 with career bests in virtually every category, including an ERA+ of 125. A few rookies could also work their way into the rotation or bullpens if injuries pop up, **Simeon Woods-Richardson** and **Brent Headrick** are two to watch.

As it presently stands, there are only two left-handers in the projected bullpen. **Steven Okert** joins the club after making 64 appearances with the Marlins last season. **Caleb Thielbar** is the other southpaw and he had a 3.23 ERA over 30.2 innings. **Jhoan Duran** is a lockdown closer who has largely baffled major league hitting in the first two years of his career. His fastball averages 100 mph which makes his curveball that much more devastating. Even that pitch he throws with velocity, usually in the upper 80s. He also has a splitter/sinker combo that he throws with velocity and vicious movement. This bullpen is legit, so even if the starting pitching isn't quite as strong as it was in 2023, the Twins should be in good shape.

The Bottom Line

Compared to past offseasons, the Twins were relatively quiet. However, they find themselves in arguably the weakest division in baseball, so just maintaining the "status quo" should put the Twins in the driver seat. It's difficult to imagine Minnesota slugging as many home runs as they did last year but if players like Royce Lewis and Max Kepler can stay healthy, the number of hits should increase. The bats struggled against the Astros in the ALDS (.198 average), so if the Twins want to make a deep run in October, the offense will need more balance. Meanwhile, the pitching staff should again be the strength of the team. Teams like the Tigers and Royals should challenge more in 2024 than they have in the past few seasons, but the Twins have what it takes to repeat as division champs.

2024 Projection: 87-75, 1st in AL Central

Pablo López

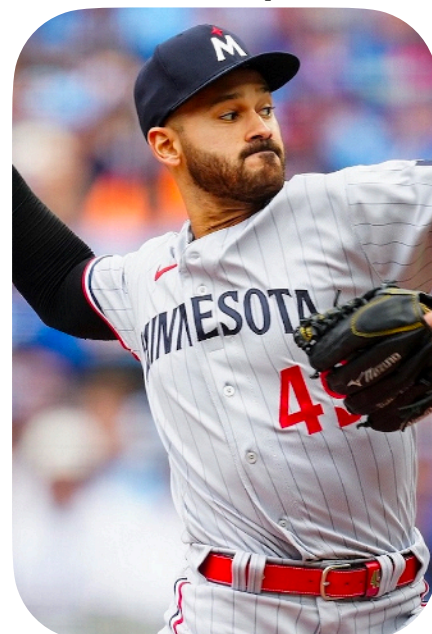


Photo via Twins Daily



2023 MLB Ranks

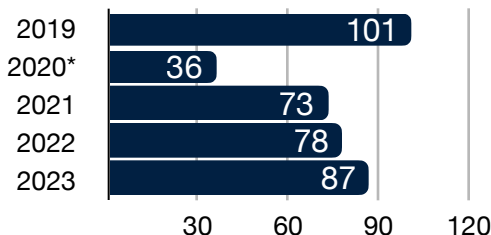
RPG - 4.80 (10th)
HITS - 1336 (19th)
HR - 233 (4th)
ERA - 3.87 (6th)
SO - 1560 (1st)
FD% - .988% (4th)

Royce Lewis



Photo via Twins Daily

TWINS 5-YEAR WIN TREND



5 < Number to Know

The number of grand slams hit by Royce Lewis in 2023, the most ever by a rookie. Remarkably, he accomplished the feat in just 66 games, smashing the previous record of 139 games.

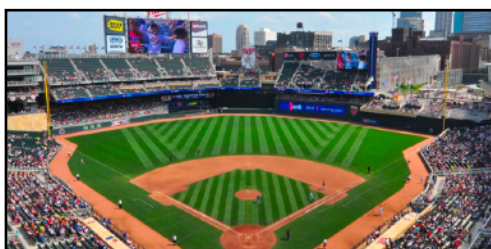


Photo via Argus Leader

PROSPECT TO WATCH Brooks Lee - SS

Lee has demonstrated good ability with the bat at a coveted defensive position, shortstop. While Carlos Correa is the everyday shortstop and is paid very well to do so, Lee may work his way to the big leagues this season anyways. His bat to ball skills are excellent and he hammered double-A pitching last year to the tune of a .292/.365/.476 slash line. He wasn't quite as successful in Triple-A but he has just 38 games under his belt at that level. Even then, his contact rate and exit velocity was above average and a towering 445 home run, his first in triple-A, showcased his power. He's worked a bit at third base in the minors so that could be his future position once he reaches Minnesota and from all reports, he has the defensive skills necessary to thrive even at an unfamiliar position.

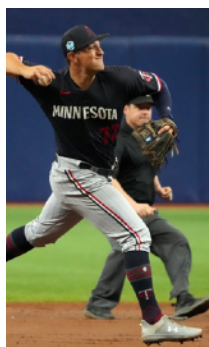


Photo via Sports Illustrated

Projected Lineup

'23 AVG

47	Edouard Julien	2B	.263
23	Royce Lewis	3B	.309
25	Byron Buxton	CF	.207
26	Max Kepler	RF	.260
4	Carlos Correa	SS	.230
30	Carlos Santana	1B	.240
38	Matt Wallner	LF	.249
27	Ryan Jeffers	C	.276
19	Alex Kirilloff	DH	.270

Projected Rotation

'23 ERA

49	Pablo López	SP	3.66
41	Joe Ryan	SP	4.51
17	Bailey Ober	SP	3.43
20	Chris Paddack	SP	5.40
21	Anthony DeSclafani	SP	4.88
59	Jhoan Duran	CL	2.45

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT Max Kepler - RF



2023 Statistics

GP AVG OPS HR RBI
128 .260 .816 24 66

Kepler turned in a .260 average last season, the best of his 9-year career with the Twins. The power that seemingly disappeared in 2022 came back in force in the second half of 2023, and the lefty collected 24 home runs and posted a slugging percentage of .484 on the year despite a slow start. Once again, the longest-tenured Twin should be a big factor at the heart of the Twins lineup as he enters the final year of his contract. Down the stretch of the season, he sacrificed contact for power, and it seemed to work as he posted an oPS of .840, 1.008, and .851 in the last three months, respectively.

2024 Schedule

March/April 2024

					KC 28 4:10			KC 30 4:10
KC 31 2:10		MIL 2 4:10	MIL 3 1:10	CLE 4 4:10			CLE 6 2:10	
CLE 7 2:10	LAD 8 7:40	LAD 9 7:40	LAD 10 1:10	DET 11 1:10	DET 12 6:40	DET 13 1:10		
DET 14 1:40	BAL 15 6:35	BAL 16 6:35	BAL 17 1:05		DET 19 8:10	DET 20 2:10		
DET 21 2:10	CWS 22 7:40	CWS 23 7:40	CWS 24 7:40	CWS 25 1:10	LAA 26 9:38	LAA 27 9:38		
LAA 28 4:07	CWS 29 7:40	CWS 30 7:40						

May 2024

			CWS 1 2:10		BOS 3 8:10	BOS 4 2:10		
BOS 5 2:10	SEA 6 7:40	SEA 7 7:40	SEA 8 7:40	SEA 9 1:10	TOR 10 7:07	TOR 11 3:07		
TOR 12 1:37		NYN 14 7:40	NYN 15 7:40	NYN 16 1:10	CLE 17 7:10	CLE 18 6:10		
CLE 19 1:40	WSH 20 6:45	WSH 21 6:45	WSH 22 1:05		TEX 24 8:10	TEX 25 2:10		
TEX 26 2:10	KC 27 2:10	KC 28 7:40	KC 29 7:40	KC 30 1:10	HOU 31 8:10			

June 2024

							HOU 1 7:10	
HOU 2 2:10		NYN 4 7:05	NYN 5 7:05	NYN 6 7:05	PIT 7 6:40	PIT 8 4:05		
PIT 9 1:35	COL 10 7:40	COL 11 7:40	COL 12 1:10	OAK 13 7:40	OAK 14 8:10	OAK 15 2:10		
OAK 16 2:10		TB 18 7:40	TB 19 7:40	TB 20 1:10	OAK 21 9:40	OAK 22 4:07		
OAK 23 4:07		ARI 25 9:40	ARI 26 9:40	ARI 27 3:40	SEA 28 9:40	SEA 29 10:10		
SEA 30 4:10								

July 2024

		DET 2 7:40	DET 3 8:10	DET 4 2:10	HOU 5 8:10	HOU 6 2:10		
HOU 7 2:10	CWS 8 8:10	CWS 9 8:10	CWS 10 2:10		SF 12 10:15	SF 13 7:15		
SF 14 4:05							MIL 20 7:10	
MIL 21 2:10	PHI 22 7:40	PHI 23 7:40	PHI 24 1:10		DET 26 6:40	DET 27 6:10		
DET 28 1:40	NYM 29 7:10	NYM 30 7:10	NYM 31 1:10					

August 2024

					CWS 2 8:10	CWS 3 7:10		
CWS 4 2:10	CHC 5 8:05	CHC 6 8:05	CHC 7 2:20		CLE 9 8:10	CLE 10 7:10		
CLE 11 2:10	KC 12 7:40	KC 13 7:40	KC 14 1:10	TEX 15 8:05	TEX 16 8:05	TEX 17 7:05		
TEX 18 2:35	SD 19 9:40	SD 20 9:40	SD 21 6:40		STL 23 8:10	STL 24 7:10		
STL 25 2:10	ATL 26 7:40	ATL 27 7:40	ATL 28 7:40		TOR 30 8:10	TOR 31 7:10		

September 2024

TOR 1 2:10	TB 2 6:50	TB 3 6:50	TB 4 6:50	TB 5 1:10	KC 6 8:10	KC 7 7:10		
KC 8 2:10	LAA 9 7:40	LAA 10 7:40	LAA 11 7:10		CIN 13 8:10	CIN 14 7:10		
CIN 15 2:10	CLE 16 6:40	CLE 17 6:40	CLE 18 6:40	CLE 19 1:10	BOS 20 7:10	BOS 21 4:10		
BOS 22 1:35		MIA 24 7:40	MIA 25 7:40	MIA 26 7:40	BAL 27 8:10	BAL 28 2:10		
BAL 29 3:10								

HOME

AWAY