

Analysis of the Luckiest and Unluckiest Hitters in the MLB

By Daniel Decker and Silas Dorsky

Players

- Lucky players: Isaac Paredes,
Trea Turner
- Unlucky players: Ben Rice,
Michael Conforto



Isaac Paredes

Stats:

2025: .353 wOBA .326 xwOBA

2024 w/Tampa Bay: .347 wOBA .301 xwOBA

2024 w/Cubs: .288 wOBA .309 xWOBAA

2023: .362 wOBA .315 xwOBA

2022: .323 wOBA .297 xwOBA

Notice the trend: he has outperformed his xwOBA each year he has had significant playing time in a 2000 plate appearance sample. (Besides Chicago)





Isaac Paredes

3B | Houston Astros

Bats/Throws: R/R | 5' 11" 213 lbs | Age: 26

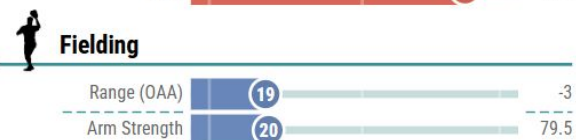
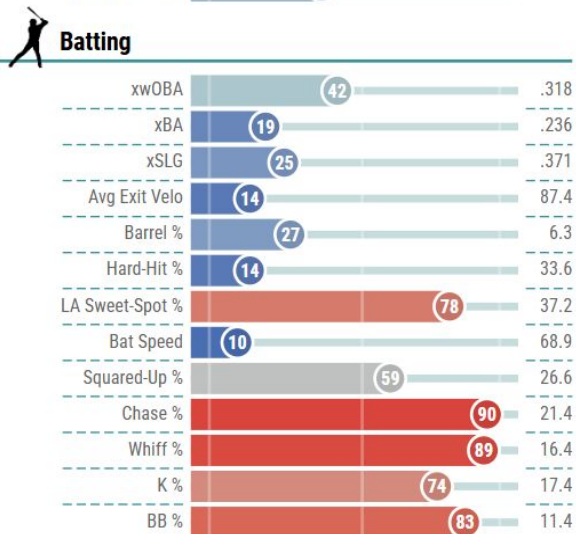
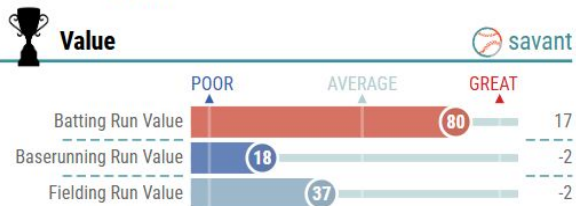
	PA	AB	R	H	HR	SB	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS
2023	571	492	71	123	31	1	.250	.352	.488	.840
2024	641	542	64	129	19	1	.238	.346	.393	.739
2025	438	378	53	96	20	0	.254	.352	.458	.810
6 Seasons	2,224	1,915	250	453	92	2	.237	.337	.429	.766

Player Apps

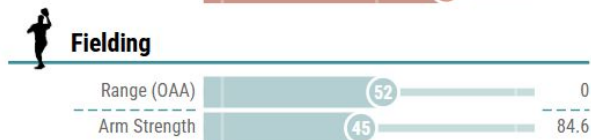
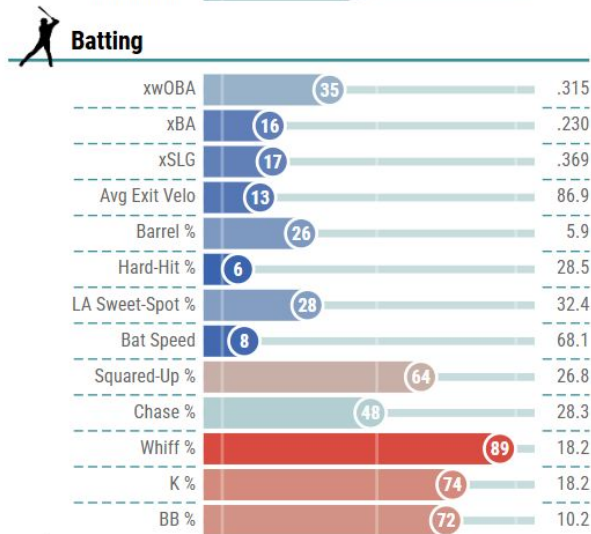
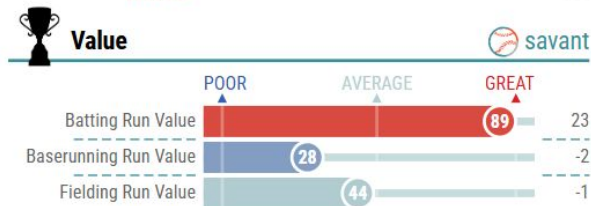
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2025 MLB Percentile Rankings



2023 MLB Percentile Rankings



REASON 1

Over the past 2 years, Paredes has ran a league leading Pull AIR %, in 2022 he was 2nd to Adam Duvall, who also grossly overperformed his expected statistics

Pull AIR % is the percentage of batted balls pulled (left field for a right-handed hitter and vice versa) that are not classified as ground balls

Reason 2

Paredes has spent the past 4 years in Tampa Bay and Houston—2 stadiums that have very short left field wall distances

The Crawford Boxes in Houston are notorious for letting anything be a home run, and the left field corner in Tampa Bay is very short

Reason 3

Paredes loves to pull home runs, and doesn't hit them far. He has 90 career homers and 74.4 career expected homers. He would have 36 career home runs if he exclusively played in Baltimore, and 70 in Yankee Stadium—a park not known for a deep left field

The Astros made a great move trading for Paredes: Houston is the place he would have the most homers in if he exclusively played there.



Trea Turner

Stats:

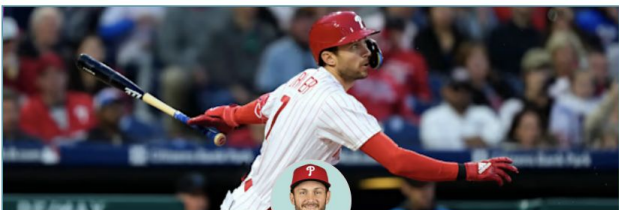
2025: BA: .304 xBA: .272

Slug: .457 xSlug: .398

2024: BA: .295 xBA: .263

Slug: .469 xSlug: .418

For the past two years, Turner has outperformed his expected stats by a quite significant margin



Trea Turner

SS | Philadelphia Phillies 

Bats/Throws: R/R | 6' 1" 185 lbs | Age: 32

Draft: 2014 | Rd. 1, No. 13, San Diego Padres | North Carolina State

	PA	AB	R	H	HR	SB	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS
2023	691	639	102	170	26	30	.266	.320	.459	.779
2024	539	505	88	149	21	19	.295	.338	.469	.807
2025	639	589	94	179	15	36	.304	.355	.457	.812
11 Seasons	5,606	5,157	870	1,531	186	315	.297	.349	.478	.827

Player Apps

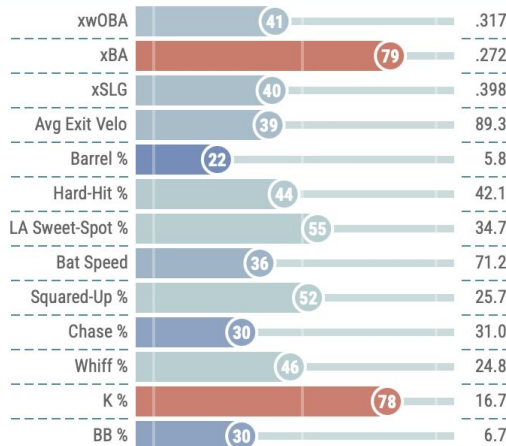
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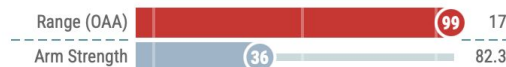
2025 MLB Percentile Rankings



Batting



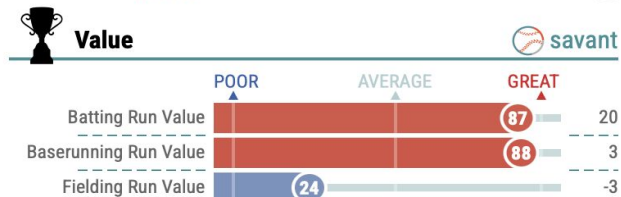
Fielding



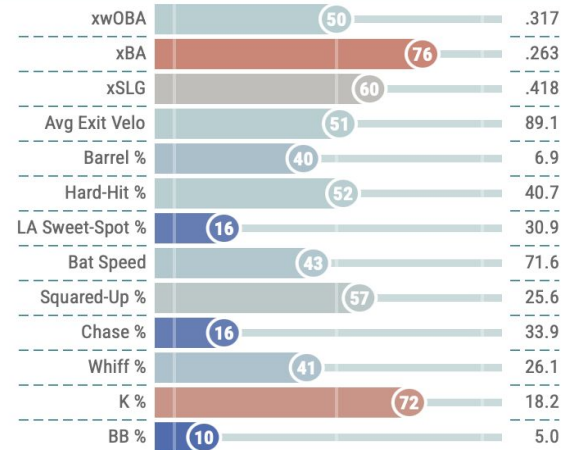
Running



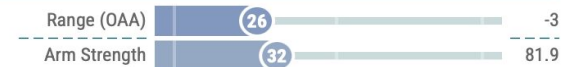
2024 MLB Percentile Rankings



Batting



Fielding



Running



Reason 1

Trea Turner is fast, like really fast. His sprint speeds the past two seasons have fallen in the 100th and 96th percentiles respectively

Being fast allows Turner to beat out a lot of hits that the expected stats suggest would be an out for a league average runner

Reason 2

Trea Turner has a ground ball rate of 46.3% which is above league average allowing him more opportunities to beat out hits

Given his speed, the high volume of hits on the ground means that he has an increased ability to beat stuff out.

CHALLENGE 3

Citizens Bank Park has a park factor of 103, making it the 3rd best hitters park (excluding Sacramento since it's not a real major league stadium)

Park factor is a measure of how friendly a ballpark is for a hitter, and a park factor of 103 means that hitting stats are expected to be 3% better than league average. Though not a big margin, enough to partially explain Trea's luck



Michael Conforto

Stats:

2025 w/Dodgers: .287 wOBA .331 xwOBA

2024: .327 wOBA .350 xwOBA

2023 w/Giants: .315 wOBA .330 xwOBA

Career: .338 wOBA .351 xwOBA

For his entire career, Conforto has been unlucky, but especially as a Dodger.



Michael Conforto

LF | Bats/Throws: L/R | 5' 11" 215 lbs | Age: 32

Draft: 2014 | Rd. 1, No. 10, New York Mets | Oregon State

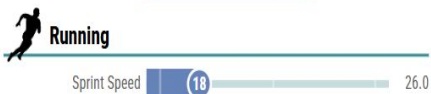
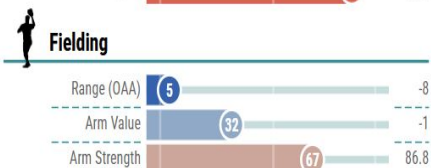
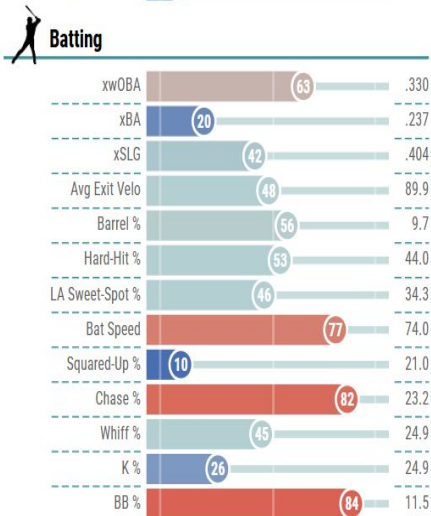
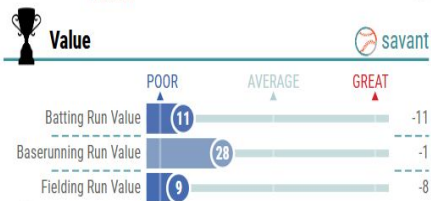
	PA	AB	R	H	HR	SB	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS
2023	470	406	58	97	15	4	.239	.334	.384	.718
2024	488	438	56	104	20	0	.237	.309	.450	.759
2025	486	418	54	83	12	1	.199	.305	.333	.638
10 Seasons	4,424	3,813	568	934	179	23	.245	.343	.442	.785

Player Apps

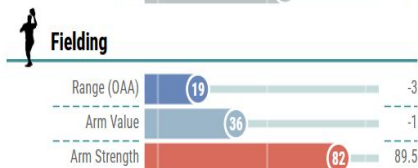
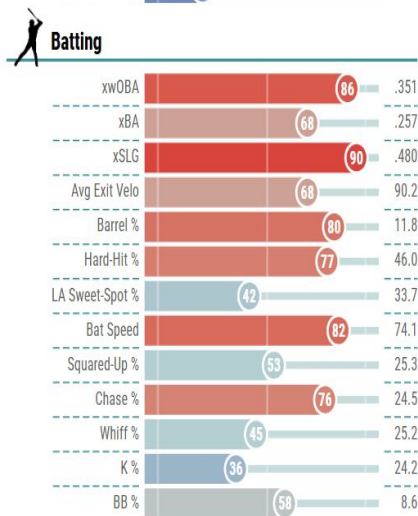
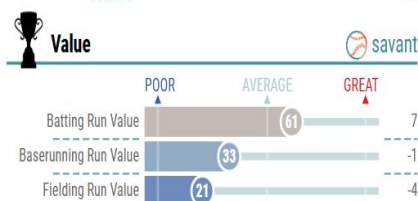
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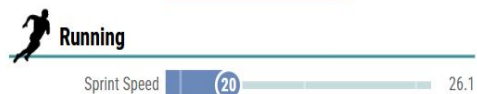
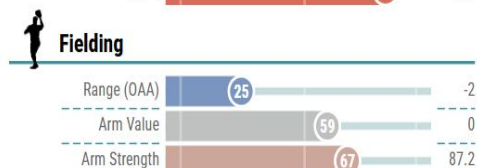
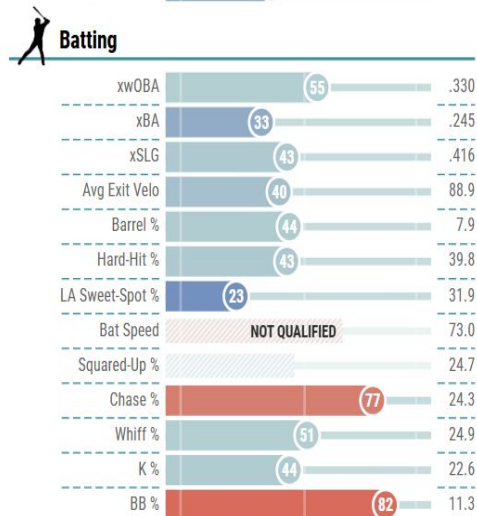
2025 MLB Percentile Rankings



2024 MLB Percentile Rankings



2023 MLB Percentile Rankings



REASON 1

Michael Conforto is slow on the bases. Over the past 3 years, he has been in the 20th, 24th, and 18th percentile for sprint speed.

With a slow sprint speed, Conforto has a tougher time beating out ground balls that should be hits. His ground ball rates are relatively average, so with a league average speed he would surely collect more hits.

Reason 2

In 2023 and 2025, Conforto has had significantly above average Oppo Air%

Hitting the ball in the air to the opposite field is typically unsuccessful. xwOBA does not factor in if a ball is pulled or pushed, so this could be a reason for the discrepancy.

Reason 3

Over the past 3 years, fielders have been exceptional against Conforto, the 13th best of any hitter in that span

The Fielding Run Value against Conforto from 2023 to 2025 is 13, which has taken away several more hits from him than the average player.



Ben Rice

Stats:

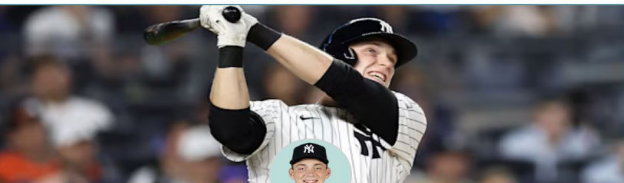
2025: wOBA: .358 xWOBAs: .396

Slug: .499 xSlug: .551

BACON: .322 xBACON: .370

HR: 27 xHR: 27.9

Notice that he has underperformed pretty much every expected statistic for him and is perhaps the unluckiest hitter in baseball. Perhaps with better luck, his pretty good hitting numbers could be near MVP caliber?



Ben Rice

1B | New York Yankees

Bats/Throws: L/R | 6' 2" 228 lbs | Age: 26

Draft: 2021 | Rd. 12, No. 363, New York Yankees | Dartmouth

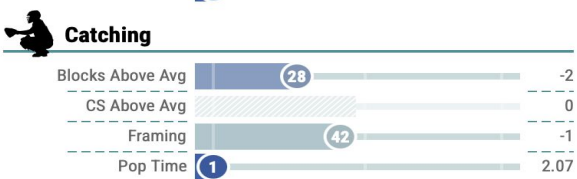
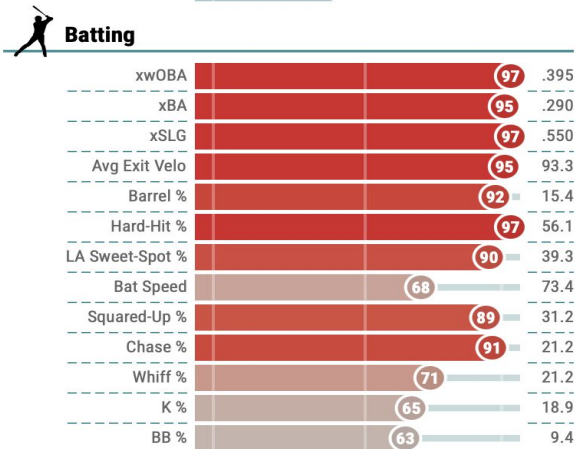
	PA	AB	R	H	HR	SB	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS
2024	178	152	20	26	7	0	.171	.264	.349	.613
2025	530	467	74	119	26	3	.255	.337	.499	.836
2 Seasons	708	619	94	145	33	3	.234	.319	.462	.781

Player Apps

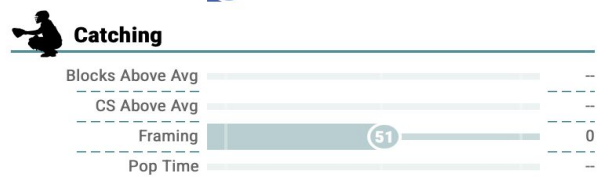
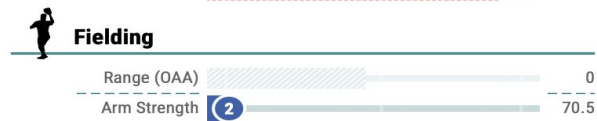
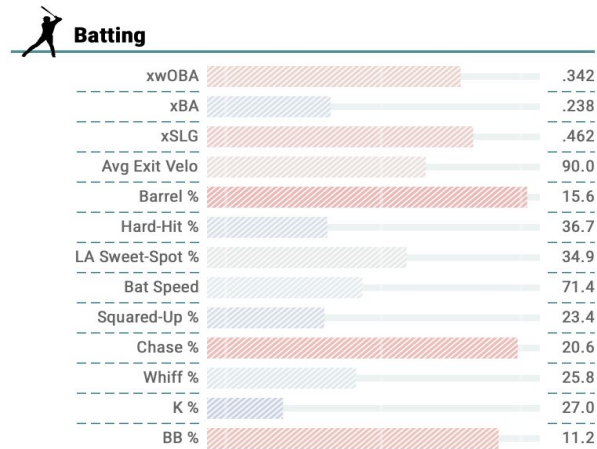
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2025 MLB Percentile Rankings



2024 MLB Percentile Rankings



Reason 1

Although Yankee Stadium is considered a friendly ballpark for lefties, for base hits it is not. It ranks as the worst stadium in baseball by statcast park factor for singles (91) for left handed hitters and fifth-worst for doubles (91)

Statcast park factor is a measure of how friendly a stadium is for hitters. A park factor of 91 for singles would indicate that any average left handed hitter would have 9% less hits than if they were to play their games at a league average ballpark for left-handed hitters to get singles

Reason 2

Fielders field good against Ben Rice. He had 4 outs above average recorded against him on balls he hit last year and a fielding run value against of 12.

Outs above average is a measure of how many outs versus league average a player has saved. Fielders fielded above average against Ben Rice last year. Fielding run value combines range, framing, catcher blocking, and several other defensive abilities.

CHALLENGE 3

Ben Rice has an about 40% groundball rate (League average is roughly 43%). Although better than average, it is not that far off from league average

Ground balls tend to have a lot of variability – and result in less hits than balls hit in the air

A decorative graphic in the top right corner consisting of a white triangle pointing downwards and to the left, and a black triangle pointing upwards and to the left, meeting at a point.

THANK YOU!

Any Questions?