



**Minnesota Twins Daily Clips**  
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**Players, managers talk Mauer's HOF candidacy**

**Rhett Bollinger | MLB.com | November 15, 2018**

MINNEAPOLIS -- It's clear how much Joe Mauer meant to the Twins organization just by looking at who showed up to his retirement news conference at Target Field on Monday.

There were former teammates, including Glen Perkins, Justin Morneau and Corey Koskie, former Twins managers Ron Gardenhire, Paul Molitor and Tom Kelly, former Twins general managers Terry Ryan and Bill Smith and former Twins greats such as Tony Oliva, Kent Hrbek and Jack Morris. The outpouring of support for Mauer came from around the league with several current and former players taking to social media to congratulate Mauer on his incredible career that saw him win the 2009 American League MVP Award, three batting titles, three Gold Gloves and five Silver Sluggers.

Here's a look at what those around the game had to say about Mauer and his 15-year career with the Twins that has officially come to an end:

Twins right-hander Jake Odorizzi:

"There's so much respect for him around the league. He's the All-American guy. You never hear a bad word about him playing on the other side of him. With the level he was able to play at, it was amazing to see him be such a humble, true-blue guy. I always respected him, playing against him, but being able to play with him and get to know him, I respect him more. I don't think there's anybody in the game I have more respect for. I'm thankful I got to play with him. The respect factor, he's No. 1 on my list, all-time."

Ryan, who was GM when Mauer was taken No. 1 overall in the 2001 Draft:

"Joe was a great representative for the organization, the state of Minnesota and the game in general. He's the same guy he was the day we signed him, even with all the pressure. He hasn't changed much. He's a humble guy with a wealth of talent. He's calm, never panics and he treats people with respect. I know his parents, Jake and Theresa, did a wonderful job raising that young man."

Gardenhire, who managed Mauer from 2004-14 and now manages the Tigers:

"It's hard to watch him step down because he's still playing at a really high level. And I do have a job in Detroit if he needs it. I'll give him a two-year deal right now. But I'm happy for him. He's going out his way and not a lot of people can do that. Just a class act, one of the nicest people you'll meet in the world, and he also meant so much in this clubhouse and out on the field for his organization. I was fortunate as a manager to have the opportunity to manage a guy like him. He was easy. I'd be screwing him up if I talked to him about hitting or anything."

Morneau, the 2006 AL MVP who played with Mauer from 2004-13:

"He was as special of a hitter as there ever was. He didn't chase pitches. He didn't swing at a pitch he didn't like. He seemed to find the barrel every time he swung. And as good as he was, he did it as a catcher. And that's why I think he should be in the Hall of Fame."

Hrbek, a Twins Hall of Famer who, like Mauer, grew up in Minnesota:

"Class act. That's all I have to say. I don't even know where to go with that, other than that he was a class act. They're going to miss him out on the field, not just being around the team, but he can still play. The concussion has a lot to do with his decision. But they're going to miss him. There was some pretty good stock in St. Paul, with Molitor and Jack Morris coming from the same area as Joe."

Molitor, a Baseball Hall of Famer from St. Paul who managed Mauer from 2015-18:

"The naysayers will talk about maybe not enough career numbers, a little decline at the end, but there's going to be a lot of numbers that put him

right in the mix with some of the Hall of Famers. So I'm obviously a little bit biased. I'd love to see it happen. The debate will be ongoing for the next handful of years, but it would be nice to add a fourth [Hall of Famer] to the east side of the river, [joining Molitor, Morris and Dave Winfield]."

Perkins, a three-time All-Star from Minnesota who played with Mauer from 2006-17:

"It's incredible what he was able to do. And the injuries he went through, from the body injuries to the head injuries, to be able to hit the way he did. One of those things could happen to another guy, and they are done or never the same. A month into his first season, he hurt his knee, and he still had this career and caught for as long as he did. It's incredible. He's a legend, and that's what legends do."

### **It's a boy! Joe Mauer and his wife add third child to their brood**

**Pioneer Press Staff | Pioneer Press | November 15, 2018**

Recently retired Twins great Joe Mauer and his wife, Maddie, have a new baby boy.

They've named him Charles Joseph, Charley Walters tweeted last night.

Mauer announced his retirement Monday after 18 years with the Twins, and after concussions ended his hall of fame-ready catching career in 2013. His health played a big role in the decision. He talked candidly about how becoming a parent put things in perspective, and with a third child on the way, he knew it was time to move on.

It was an emotional announcement, and Mauer saved the most tears for his wife. "I'm not sure I have the right words to express my gratitude, my admiration or my love for you," he said. "You've been my biggest supporter, biggest fan, and my rock. You made everything happen at home so I could go out there and play a game that I love. I know it wasn't easy on you three when I'd leave. But you sure made it look like it."

Whether a brother or sister would join twins Maren and Emily remained a mystery. "That was Joe's big thing," Maddie Mauer said the day of the retirement announcement. "He wanted that surprise element again."

### **If the fit is right, Twins could move Miguel Sano and Jorge Polanco to new positions**

**Derek Wetmore | 1500 ESPN | November 15, 2018**

Twins Chief Baseball Officer Derek Falvey has a big winter in front of him. Two years after taking over the baseball arm of the organization, Falvey has a hand-picked manager in place, a team in need of additions, and plenty of currency to make additions to the club on the field.

This could be the time to be bold.

Falvey often talks about being open-minded. His new manager Rocco Baldelli espoused that same virtue in an introductory press conference to kick off this pivotal winter for the franchise. And in a radio interview on 1500ESPN last week, Falvey again showed he's open-minded to possibilities that might be unpopular, but could also help the Twins take a step forward in 2019.

He said that if the Twins find a good fit at third base in the market this winter, they'd be open to moving Miguel Sano to first base. Ditto for Jorge Polanco, from a shortstop to second base.

"We know we need two infielders," Falvey said in a radio interview on 1500ESPN. "We've been thoughtful about where guys slot. That could [include] some movement around our current infield – we're not ruling anything out at this point."

Does that mean you'd be willing to move Polanco and Sano off their current positions?

"I think that's exactly right. We wouldn't rule anything out," he said.

"The way we have it structured now: Jorge is our everyday shortstop, and Miguel, we have every expectation will be there at third. But if the right opportunity presents, we never want to rule out something that could potentially allow us to shift a guy [to a new position]," Falvey said. "If we find the perfect third-base fit for us over some period of time, does that open up a conversation with Miguel on the other side? I would say those are things we're always thinking about."

It's a natural winter to have the discussion.

Polanco has long thought to be less than a Gold Glover at shortstop. As he rose through the minor leagues, the feeling in the organization was split on whether he would stay at shortstop or eventually need to move the other side of the infield. Brian Dozier was an all-star-caliber player on a 4-year contract, though, so what could you really do?

Now, Dozier is gone and Polanco is coming off a decent half-season at the plate (after sitting out the first half of the year for testing positive for a drug that enhances athletic performance).

Sano, for his part, has been at a proverbial crossroad multiple times in his young career. He's 25 years old, and he has yet to play a full season in the big leagues since he debuted in early July of 2015. That year he burst onto the scene with a daunting combination of patience and power; the rookie hit .269/.385/.530 and hit 18 home runs, with an approach at the plate that made the slugger look advanced beyond his years.

But along the way there have been persistent questions about his conditioning, durability and more recently his offensive capabilities. Injuries helped wreck his 2018 season, in which a guy once presumed to be a franchise cornerstone instead hit .199/.281/.398.

That offensive performance wouldn't look good at third base or first base. And yet, if you watched him take the league by storm in 2015, it's hard to shake the thought that there's still a star slugger ready to emerge at any time now. Some corners of the team's fan base are hopeful that a move to a less demanding position would alleviate some concerns over his body, and free him up to be a masher.

It's not a foregone conclusion that either player will switch this winter. It's worth noting, though, that if the Twins can find a way to upgrade the roster now and in the future, Derek Falvey is open to having the conversation.