



Detroit Tigers Clips Monday, December 5, 2016

Detroit Free Press

Six observations on the Tigers heading into MLB's winter meetings (Fenech)
Tigers likely to pass on bringing back catcher Jarrod Saltalamacchia (Fenech)

MLive.com

Baseball Winter Meetings: Tigers still on hunt for backup catcher (Woodbery)

MLB.com

Tigers have vets to market as Meetings open (Beck)

Daily Transactions

Six observations on the Tigers heading into MLB's winter meetings

December 5, 2016

By Anthony Fenech/ Detroit Free Press

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. – On the eve of this year's Major League Baseball winter meetings – perhaps the most pivotal one for the Tigers in some time – some observations and opinions.

- Rightfielder J.D. Martinez has been widely reported as the team's most attractive trade chip. Martinez, 29, is a middle-of-the-order power bat with an expiring contract at \$11.75 million this upcoming season. Given the Tigers' penchant for reducing payroll, and the fact they have plenty of right-handed hitters that can, in theory, fill Martinez's void – Justin Upton and Nick Castellanos come to mind – he appears to be the most likely player traded.
- Despite their names dangling in trade rumors, it would be a long shot to see second-year general manager Al Avila part with franchise players Miguel Cabrera or Justin Verlander. Both continue to produce at an elite level.
- I don't think trading Verlander – who looks like a future Hall of Famer – or Cabrera – who looks like one of the best three righty hitters of all-time – would help the organization.
- As I wrote earlier in the off-season, second baseman Ian Kinsler – whose name has come up often in trade talks, but less so as of late, because of a limited no-trade clause – would be a crippling blow to the team. Kinsler represents the team's most sturdy two-way player.
- Look for the team to kick the tires on veteran free agent centerfielders, as a safety net. One name that comes to mind: Ben Revere.
- Avila has been effective on the trade market. Last off-season, all three of his trades were positive. Much of this off-season's success could depend on if Avila can get rid of undesirable contracts, like righties Anibal Sanchez (\$16.8 million) or Mike Pelfrey (\$8 million). If the Tigers can part with only a player like Martinez, it would point in the right direction of being competitive next season.

Tigers likely to pass on bringing back catcher Jarrod Saltalamacchia

December 5, 2016

By Anthony Fenech/ Detroit Free Press

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. – Jarrod Saltalamacchia did his job this past season.

After signing for a league-minimum salary with the Detroit Tigers for 2016, Saltalamacchia backed up starting catcher James McCann with a veteran presence.

He did not hit well -- .171 in 92 games – but afforded the team a left-handed hitting platoon option to McCann and a proven major league experience in the case he went down with an injury.

But it does not appear that Saltalamacchia will return to Detroit for next season.

Though a few teams are interested in Saltalamacchia's services, the Tigers, to this point, are not one of them, according to a person with knowledge of the situation.

Saltalamacchia, 31, hit 12 home runs and 38 RBI this past season. Though he did not produce much offensively, he did deliver a number of game-winning hits for the Tigers this past season and received high marks from teammates and coaches alike for his clubhouse presence.

Over the course of the season, young starting pitchers like American League rookie of the year award winner Michael Fulmer and lefty Matt Boyd leaned on him. Saltalamacchia served as Boyd's personal catcher.

With no apparent interest in Saltalamacchia, if the team is prioritizing a lefty hitter to complement McCann, longtime Tiger Alex Avila could be a top target. Avila is the youngest son of general manager Alex Avila.

Outside of Saltalamacchia, Alex Avila and Matt Wieters – whom is considered out of the Tigers' price range – there are no other notable lefty-hitting catchers on the free agent market.

Alex Avila, 29, hit .213 with seven home runs in 57 games with the White Sox in 2016. He played seven seasons with the Tigers prior to this past season and told the Free Press earlier in the winter that he would welcome a return to the team.

Other options to back-up McCann include John Hicks, who spent much of this past season with Triple-A Toledo and currently is the organization's only catcher outside of McCann with major league experience, and Bryan Holaday, another former Tiger who was non-tendered by the Red Sox recently. Both are right-handed hitters.

The Tigers likely would prefer to keep Hicks as major league insurance in the case of injuries, meaning a backup catching addition would likely come via free agency.

Baseball Winter Meetings: Tigers still on hunt for backup catcher

December 5, 2016

By Evan Woodbery/ MLive.com

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. -- One year ago on Tuesday, the Detroit Tigers signed catcher Jarrod Saltalamacchia to a one-year deal to be the team's backup.

A year later, the job is open once again and it appears the Tigers have moved on to other options. There have been no talks with Saltalamacchia about a return in 2017, according to a league source. What about the rest of the league?

Jason Castro signed a three-year, \$24.5 million contract with the Minnesota Twins.

Castro was always going to be seeking more playing time (and money) than the Tigers could offer, but his deal could signal that Nick Hundley, in the next tier of catchers, will also be out of reach.

Former Tiger Alex Avila is still available.

Bryan Holaday, who essentially lost his job when Saltalamacchia was signed a year ago, is also back on the market after being non-tendered by the Boston Red Sox.

Two veterans with recent injury problems -- Brayan Pena and Geovany Soto -- are on the market. So is Ramon Cabrera, who was non-tendered by the Reds last week.

Tigers starter James McCann was a Gold Glove finalist, but struggled at the plates at times in 2016, particularly against right-handed pitching. That makes a left-handed hitting backup an ideal solution.

Saltalamacchia, 31, hit just .110 (9-for-82) after Aug. 1. Like most of the other catchers on this list, he'll likely be seeking a one-year deal at or near the league minimum.

Tigers have vets to market as Meetings open

December 5, 2016

By Jason Beck/ MLB.com

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. -- The nation's capital is the center of the Tigers' organizational shift this week. For years, Detroit used the Winter Meetings to add pieces, sign top talent and fuel the win-now mandate that drove the organization for more than a decade. This time, general manager Al Avila and his assistants arrived in the unusual position of having veteran players to market.

- Hot Stove Tracker

One thing that hasn't changed for the Tigers: The Winter Meetings are where their work usually culminates. They didn't bring an "open for business" sign with them, but by now, everybody knows that they arrived with plenty of work to do.

- Tigers could get creative with Winter Meetings moves

The Tigers will try to pare down payroll below the new luxury-tax threshold of \$195 million, a goal that would require about a \$20 million reduction. They'll try to add young talent to a roster that has several key stars heading into their mid-30s. All the while, they'll try to keep their team in a position to compete in a division that boasts the defending American League-champion Indians, a club that beat the Tigers 14 times this past season.

- Tigers aim to go 'leaner, younger' at Meetings

It all makes for an interesting backdrop as the meetings begin. MLB.com and MLB Network will have wall-to-wall coverage of the 2016 Winter Meetings from the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center outside Washington, D.C. Fans can watch live streaming of all news conferences and manager availability on MLB.com, including the Rule 5 Draft on Thursday at 9 a.m. ET.

Plenty of other news will take place. Manager Brad Ausmus is scheduled to talk with reporters on Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. ET, his first public session since the Tigers' offseason direction became clear.

Look for coverage at tigers.com throughout the week, from breaking news to daily reports to a podcast midweek.

LAST UPDATED: MON, DECEMBER 5, 2016, 01:24 EST

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2016

TEAM	PLAYER	TRANSACTION
Atlanta Braves	Jacob Lindgren	Signed as Free Agent, (2017)(one-year contract)
Cincinnati Reds	Gabby Guerrero	Signed to a Minor League Contract
Minnesota Twins	Ben Paulsen	Signed to a Minor League Contract

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2016

TEAM	PLAYER	TRANSACTION
Atlanta Braves	Lane Adams	Signed to a Minor League Contract
Detroit Tigers	Casey McGehee	Signed to Play in Japan, (Yomiuri Giants)
San Diego Padres	Carlos Fisher	Signed to a Minor League Contract
Seattle Mariners	Zach Lee	Designated for Assignment
Seattle Mariners	Marc Rzepczynski	Signed as Free Agent, (2017-2018)(two-year contract)
Seattle Mariners	Casey Fien	Signed as Free Agent, (2017)(one-year contract)
Seattle Mariners	Dean Kiekhefer	Designated for Assignment

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2016

TEAM	PLAYER	TRANSACTION
-------------	---------------	--------------------

Arizona Diamondbacks	Rubby De La Rosa	Not Offered Contract and Became Free Agent, (non-tendered)
Arizona Diamondbacks	Wellington Castillo	Not Offered Contract and Became Free Agent, (non-tendered)
Atlanta Braves	Chris Withrow	Not Offered Contract and Became Free Agent, (non-tendered)
Atlanta Braves	Paco Rodriguez	Signed, (2017)(avoids arbitration)
Atlanta Braves	Anthony Recker	Signed, (2017)(avoids arbitration)
Baltimore Orioles	Vance Worley	Not Offered Contract and Became Free Agent, (non-tendered)
Boston Red Sox	Bryan Holaday	Not Offered Contract and Became Free Agent, (non-tendered)
Chicago Cubs	Zac Rosscup	Not Offered Contract and Became Free Agent, (non-tendered)
Chicago Cubs	Brian Duensing	Signed as Free Agent, (2017)(one-year contract)
Chicago Cubs	Gerardo Concepción	Not Offered Contract and Became Free Agent, (non-tendered)
Chicago Cubs	Conor Mullee	Not Offered Contract and Became Free Agent, (non-tendered)
Chicago Cubs	Christian Villanueva	Not Offered Contract and Became Free Agent, (non-tendered)
Chicago White Sox	Brett Lawrie	Signed, (2017)(avoids arbitration)
Chicago White Sox	Blake Smith	Not Offered Contract and Became Free Agent, (non-tendered)
Chicago White Sox	Avisail Garcia	Signed, (2017)(avoids arbitration)
Cincinnati Reds	Gabby Guerrero	Not Offered Contract and Became Free Agent, (non-tendered)
Cincinnati Reds	Keyvius Sampson	Not Offered Contract and Became Free Agent, (non-tendered)

Cincinnati Reds	Ramón Cabrera	Not Offered Contract and Became Free Agent, (non-tendered)
Cleveland Indians	Jeff Manship	Not Offered Contract and Became Free Agent, (non-tendered)
Colorado Rockies	Stephen Cardullo	Not Offered Contract and Became Free Agent, (non-tendered)
Colorado Rockies	Matt Carasiti	Not Offered Contract and Became Free Agent, (non-tendered)
Colorado Rockies	Jake McGee	Signed, (2017)(avoids arbitration)
Los Angeles Angels	John Lamb	Signed to a Minor League Contract
Los Angeles Angels	Cody Ege	Not Offered Contract and Became Free Agent, (non-tendered)
Los Angeles Angels	Gregorio Petit	Not Offered Contract and Became Free Agent, (non-tendered)
Los Angeles Dodgers	Louis Coleman	Not Offered Contract and Became Free Agent, (non-tendered)
Milwaukee Brewers	David Goforth	Outrighted to Minors
Milwaukee Brewers	Scooter Gennett	Signed, (2017)(avoids arbitration)
Milwaukee Brewers	Steven Geltz	Outrighted to Minors
Milwaukee Brewers	Chris Carter	Not Offered Contract and Became Free Agent, (non-tendered)
Milwaukee Brewers	Kirk Nieuwenhuis	Signed, (2017)(avoids arbitration)
Minnesota Twins	Eduardo Escobar	Signed, (2017)(avoids arbitration)
New York Mets	Rene Rivera	Signed, (2017)(avoids arbitration)
New York Yankees	Jacob Lindgren	Not Offered Contract and Became Free Agent, (non-tendered)

Oakland Athletics	Yonder Alonso	Signed, (2017)(avoids arbitration)
Philadelphia Phillies	Cody Asche	Designated for Assignment
Philadelphia Phillies	Cody Asche	Not Offered Contract and Became Free Agent, (non-tendered)
Philadelphia Phillies	David Rollins	Acquired Off Waivers From from Rangers, Texas
Pittsburgh Pirates	Wade LeBlanc	Signed, (2017)(avoids arbitration)
San Diego Padres	Alexi Amarista	Not Offered Contract and Became Free Agent, (non-tendered)
San Diego Padres	Jose Pirela	Not Offered Contract and Became Free Agent, (non-tendered)
San Diego Padres	Dusty Coleman	Signed to a Minor League Contract
San Diego Padres	Jon Edwards	Not Offered Contract and Became Free Agent, (non-tendered)
San Diego Padres	Erik Johnson	Not Offered Contract and Became Free Agent, (non-tendered)
San Diego Padres	Hector Sanchez	Not Offered Contract and Became Free Agent, (non-tendered)
San Diego Padres	Tyson Ross	Not Offered Contract and Became Free Agent, (non-tendered)
San Francisco Giants	Ehire Adrianza	Signed, (2017)(avoids arbitration)
San Francisco Giants	Cory Gearin	Signed, (2017)(avoids arbitration)
Seattle Mariners	Ryan Weber	Outrighted to Minors
St. Louis Cardinals	Seth Maness	Not Offered Contract and Became Free Agent, (non-tendered)
Tampa Bay Rays	Ryan Brett	Not Offered Contract and Became Free Agent, (non-tendered)

Texas Rangers	Jared Hoying	Not Offered Contract and Became Free Agent, (non-tendered)
Toronto Blue Jays	Andy Burns	Outrighted to Minors
Toronto Blue Jays	Chris Colabello	Outrighted to Minors
Washington Nationals	Derek Norris	Traded From from Padres, San Diego (for RHP Pedro Avila)
Washington Nationals	Ben Revere	Not Offered Contract and Became Free Agent, (non-tendered)