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Elite defenders named Gold Glove finalists

By Matt Kelly / MLB.com / October 25, 2018

Rawlings announced the American and National League finalists for the 2018 Gold Glove Awards on Thursday, spelling out many of the game's premier defenders.

Plenty of mainstays are joined by exciting newcomers in this year's field for the Gold Glove, which is determined by a combination of votes submitted by Major League managers and coaches and a sabermetric index provided by Society for American Baseball Research (SABR). Eighteen Gold Gloves are given out each year (one for each position in each league), along with the Platinum Glove, which is given out to the game's best overall defender as voted by the fans.

Here's a look at this year's finalist at each position. Winners will be announced on Nov. 4.

Pitcher

National League: Zack Greinke, D-backs; Clayton Richard, Padres; Julio Teheran, Braves

American League: Dallas Keuchel, Astros; Corey Kluber, Indians; Masahiro Tanaka, Yankees

Greinke has won four straight Gold Gloves, and a fifth would tie him with Ron Guidry, Phil Niekro and Kenny Rogers for seventh all-time among pitchers. Keuchel, who induced more ground balls than any other pitcher, is seeking his fourth Gold Glove in five years.

Catcher

National League: Yadier Molina, Cardinals; Manny Pina, Brewers; Buster Posey, Giants

American League: Yan Gomes, Indians; Martin Maldonado, Astros; Salvador Perez, Royals

Molina is seeking a ninth Gold Glove, which would put him closer to Ivan Rodriguez's record 13 at the position, but he has not won the award since 2015. Posey took the honor home two years ago. The Astros acquired Maldonado, the reigning AL winner, in the middle of this season specifically for defense behind the plate.

First base

National League: Freddie Freeman, Braves; Anthony Rizzo, Cubs; Joey Votto, Reds

American League: Mitch Moreland, Red Sox; Matt Olson, Athletics; Justin Smoak, Blue Jays

The AL race is wide open now that four-time winner Eric Hosmer is in the Senior Circuit, though Moreland claimed this award in 2016. Rizzo and Votto each own one Gold Glove, while Freeman is seeking his first.

Second base

National League: Javier Baez, Cubs; DJ LeMahieu, Rockies; Kolten Wong, Cardinals

American League: Jed Lowrie, Athletics; Ian Kinsler, Red Sox; Rougned Odor, Rangers
Wong totaled 19 defensive runs saved (DRS) at second base, while LeMahieu was close behind with 18. Baez, a staple of defensive highlight reels, is seeking his first Gold Glove.

Shortstop

National League: Nick Ahmed, D-backs; Brandon Crawford, Giants; Freddy Galvis, Padres
American League: Francisco Lindor, Indians; Marcus Semien, Athletics; Andrelton Simmons, Angels
Crawford could become the first NL shortstop to win four straight Gold Gloves since Ozzie Smith, who won 13 straight from 1980-92. Ahmed's 21 DRS tied for the MLB lead among shortstops with Simmons, who could join Omar Vizquel as the second shortstop to win multiple Gold Gloves in each league.

Third base

National League: Nolan Arenado, Rockies; Anthony Rendon, Nationals; Travis Shaw, Brewers
American League: Alex Bregman, Astros; Matt Chapman, Athletics; Jose Ramirez, Indians
Chapman's 29 DRS were the most of any defender at any position (eight clear of Ahmed and Simmons) amid a breakout year for the A's young star. He'll face staunch competition from the stellar Bregman, while Arenado seeks a sixth straight NL Gold Glove -- which would tie Buddy Bell and Eric Chavez for the third longest streak by any third baseman.

Left field

National League: Corey Dickerson, Pirates; Adam Duvall, Braves; Christian Yelich, Brewers
American League: Andrew Benintendi, Red Sox; Brett Gardner, Yankees; Alex Gordon, Royals
Dickerson paced all qualified left fielders with eight Outs Above Average defensive metric that measures how many outs an outfielder saves over his average peer, while Yelich could pair his second Gold Glove with first NL MVP award, for which he is considered the favorite. Benintendi has dazzled with his defense in the postseason, while Gardner and Gordon are both former winners.

Center field

National League: Lorenzo Cain, Brewers; Billy Hamilton, Reds; Ender Inciarte, Braves
American League: Jackie Bradley Jr., Red Sox; Adam Engel, White Sox; Mike Trout, Angels
Inciarte tied St. Louis' Harrison Bader for the MLB lead with 21 OAA, followed closely by Cain with 19. Engel, who notably robbed three home runs in the span of a week in August, led all AL outfielders with 17 OAA.

Right field

National League: Jason Heyward, Cubs; Jon Jay, D-backs; Nick Markakis, Braves
American League: Mookie Betts, Red Sox; Kole Calhoun, Angels; Aaron Judge, Yankees
Betts is widely considered to be MLB's best right fielder, and he led the position with 11 OAA in 2018. Heyward has claimed right field honors in each of the last four years, and in five of the last six overall.

Inbox: Can Hansen crack the roster in '19?

Beat reporter Scott Merkin answers questions from fans

By Scott Merkin / MLB.com / October 25, 2018

How has Alec Hansen's recovery gone? Can we expect to see him next year in Chicago?
-- Michael, Albuquerque, NM (@Urriteimawesome)

Hansen, the No. 10 White Sox prospect per MLB Pipeline, wasn't part of instructional league action as the White Sox gave him time to decompress after a 2018 season that started with a forearm injury in Spring Training and ended with a 6.31 ERA and 59 walks over 14 starts and 51 1/3 innings between Double-A Birmingham and Class A Advanced Winston-Salem. The White Sox hope the break will be the start of Hansen's return to a '17 performance, when he topped the Minors with 191 strikeouts, although a promotion to Chicago in '19 is unlikely.

- Submit your question to the Inbox

"It's important for him to just get away from things and just flush some of the struggles he went through this year," White Sox director of player development Chris Getz said. "Last year was one of those years where he couldn't get in sync. That can be really frustrating for players, but he still is a very young kid who is learning about himself as a person and as a player.

"We still believe in the kid. It's important to go home, get away from the game. Live a balanced life and start preparing for 2019. But we look forward to seeing him come Spring Training, because there's so much talent in there and we look forward to recapturing it."

What young controllable players do you think the Sox should consider trading for with their surplus farm system?

-- Nick, Evergreen Park, Ill. (@chicago_na)

At this point, the White Sox are continuing to figure out what they have and what they need as part of the rebuild's big picture. It was a big part of Year 2, and while the organization now has a better idea, the development is incomplete for some of even the best prospects. Who goes and who stays at this point probably depends on what player is being offered on the other side in potential deals, although there will be some untouchables.

With recent display of dirty play and lazy jog to first base, did Manny Machado's appeal to the Sox cool off at all?

-- Robert, Aurora, Ill.

I talked Machado with Brittany Ghiroli, MLB.com's outstanding Orioles beat writer, during our last White Sox Extras podcast. Basically, there are two different Machados: the one on the field who is not afraid to take the brunt of criticism or be the center of the attention, and the one who is a true leader/good guy with the veterans and the younger players in the clubhouse. Machado is loaded with talent and any team would be greatly impacted for the positive by his addition.

When [Nick] Madrigal is ready, which I believe will be really soon, is there a chance [Tim Anderson] moves to center field?

-- Colin, Manteno, Ill.

Anderson spoke to me earlier last season about moving to center, and he was confident in being able to handle that position. Of course, Anderson went out and played tremendous defense at shortstop in truly making that position his own. I would look more at Yoan Moncada moving to third when Madrigal is ready, all things staying the same, but at that time, it will be a good problem to have.

The playoffs had me looking back at the 2005 Sox. I was surprised to see Joe Crede had better stats for the ALCS than Paul Konerko, yet the sports writers gave Konerko the MVP award. Why? I remember Crede having several key plays in the field and big hits. Crede should have gotten the award.

-- Michael, Chicago

Crede was probably the most valuable White Sox player across the entire 12-game playoffs. But there were countless candidates for MVP in each series, including Konerko. It was a truly dominant, team-wide run.

"Fab Five" Wolverines (Webber, Rose, Howard, King, Jackson) vs. "Hotel California" Eagles (Frey, Henley, Meisner, Felder, Walsh): Who ya got?

-- Vinnie, Chicago (@VinnieDuber)

I must go with the group who changed college basketball over the group who changed music, but it's a tough call.

Have you heard one tiny whisper at all that the Sox are considering replacing Ricky with Girardi? Vince, Melrose Park, Ill. (@vinnyc52)

Rick Renteria is a White Sox manager the entire organization completely believes in from top to bottom, including the players -- just check out this quote from pitching coach Don Cooper concerning Renteria's entire staff.

"I've been here for 18 years, and the coaching staff we have is as prepared as we've ever been," Cooper said. "That's a good thing."

Here's what happened in Thursday's AFL action

MLB.com / October 25, 2018

Here's a team-by-team breakdown of how all 30 teams' prospects fared in Arizona Fall League action on Thursday:

• Gameday: Peoria 4, Mesa 3 | Glendale 21, Surprise 8 | Scottsdale 6, Salt River 5

AL East

Blue Jays (Surprise)

Another day, another hitting show for Vladimir Guerrero Jr., baseball's top prospect, who extended his fall hitting streak to 10 games and raised his average to .463 with a 2-for-4 performance, including a double, walk and run. Reliever Jackson McClelland threw 1 1/3 scoreless innings and struck out three, but starter Shawn Morimando was tagged for six runs and didn't make it out of the first inning.

Orioles (Glendale)

All three Orioles prospects that played in Glendale's rout of Surprise had at least three hits. Center fielder Ryan McKenna, Baltimore's No. 12 prospect, reached base a team-high six times from the leadoff spot, scoring three runs, doubling twice and collecting a pair of walks in a 4-for-5 game. Third baseman Steve Wilkerson was 3-for-4 with a team-leading five RBIs and two runs, while designated hitter Martin Cervenko had four hits and three RBIs and scored one of his two runs stealing home in the first inning.

Rays (Peoria)

Rays No. 17 prospect Joe McCarthy was 0-for-3 with a pair of strikeouts as Peoria's designated hitter. He was lifted for a pinch-runner in the eighth inning after being hit by a pitch.

Red Sox (Mesa)

Third baseman Bobby Dalbec, Boston's No. 6 prospect, doubled for the second straight game and was 1-for-3 with a walk and a run. Three Red Sox relievers pitched in relief for Mesa on Thursday, with No. 9 prospect Mike Shawaryn allowing his first run of the fall in 1 1/3 innings as the first man out of the bullpen. Josh Taylor followed with two runs allowed in 1 2/3 innings, causing Peoria to tie the game before No. 7 prospect Darwinson Hernandez took the loss by yielding the go-ahead run in the eighth.

Yankees (Glendale)

Yankees No. 2 prospect Estevan Florial and No. 16 prospect Thairo Estrada brought home seven of Glendale's 21 runs on Thursday, with Florial, who entered the game late as a pinch-hitter in the fifth, driving in all four of his runs in an 11-run ninth inning with a pair of two-run knocks. Estrada extended his hitting streak to four games with a 3-for-5 game, including three runs and three RBIs. Reliever Kyle Zurak allowed one hit and struck out one in two scoreless innings.

AL Central

Indians (Glendale)

Right fielder Connor Marabell was 1-for-2 with a run before he was lifted for a pinch-hitter in the fifth. Neither Indians prospect that pitched Thursday was effective -- Jared Robinson walked two and allowed a hit while recording only one out, and Dalbert Siri was tagged for four runs on six hits in two-thirds of an inning.

Royals (Surprise)

Royals No. 2 prospect Khalil Lee hit a two-run single in a 1-for-5 game, and center fielder Nick Heath was also 1-for-5 while doubling in his second straight contest.

Tigers (Mesa)

Tigers No. 8 prospect Daz Cameron tallied his second three-hit game of the fall, going 3-for-4 with a walk and a run. Though he was picked off and caught stealing in the first inning, he was also part of a spectacular catch in the outfield to end the second. First baseman Daniel Pinero hit an RBI infield single, and No. 12 prospect Jake Rogers walked and scored. Left fielder Daniel Woodrow was 0-for-4 with a strikeout.

Twins (Salt River)

Minnesota's No. 18 prospect, Travis Blankenhorn, played left field and went 0-for-4 with a pair of strikeouts. Right-hander Griffin Jax started and went four innings, giving up a run on three hits while walking one and fanning three.

White Sox (Glendale)

Second baseman Laz Rivera, the No. 28 prospect in the White Sox system, was one of three Glendale hitters with four hits in the Desert Dogs' 21-run outburst on Thursday. He scored three runs and hit an RBI single. Glendale starter Tanner Banks allowed three runs in 4 2/3 innings but still earned his second win of the fall, while Zach Thompson earned his first save by finishing the game with 1 1/3 hitless frames.

AL West

A's (Mesa)

Right fielder Luis Barrera was 0-for-4 with an RBI groundout but made an impact in the field, recording an outfield assist at second base in the eighth inning.

Angels (Mesa)

Angels No. 4 prospect Jahmai Jones had his fourth multi-hit game in the last five contests with a 2-for-4 game, including a double and an RBI single. Roberto Baldoquin was 0-for-4 with a pair of strikeouts.

Astros (Scottsdale)

Astros No. 21 prospect Abraham Toro went 1-for-4 with an RBI double, and is hitting .353 with a .979 OPS in AFL play. Center fielder Ronnie Dawson was 1-for-3 with an RBI triple and a walk, hitting .324 with a .993 OPS.

Mariners (Peoria)

Ian Miller, the Mariners' No. 20 prospect, scored the go-ahead run after entering the game as a pinch-runner in the eighth inning. Peoria starter and No. 27 prospect Anthony Misiewicz was solid in four innings, allowing a run while striking out four, walking two and picking off a runner. Wyatt Mills, Seattle's No. 9 prospect, allowed a run as he pitched the seventh inning in relief.

Rangers (Surprise)

Joe Barlow pitched a hitless sixth inning and Charles LeBlanc was 1-for-4 with a run, but Rangers No. 15 prospect C.D. Pelham and Joseph Kuzia were hit hard in the ninth inning, combining to allow 11 runs on nine hits and four walks.

NL East

Braves (Peoria)

First baseman Braxton Davidson was 2-for-4 with a pair of RBI singles, the second of which drove in the game's winning run in the eighth inning. Shortstop Ray-Patrick Didder was 1-for-3, while No. 6 prospect Cristian Pache went 0-for-4 to snap a seven-game hitting streak.

Marlins (Salt River)

Center fielder Monte Harrison, Miami's No. 2 prospect, was 0-for-3 with a walk and a run scored. He's hitting .343 with an .823 OPS. Marlins No. 27 prospect Bryson Brigman started at second base and was 0-for-4 with a strikeout, dropping his AFL average to .206.

Mets (Scottsdale)

The Mets' top two prospects were in action Thursday, with Andres Gimenez (New York's No. 1 prospect, No. 55 overall) going 0-for-1 in a pinch-hit appearance, and Peter Alonso (New York's No. 2 prospect, No. 58 overall) turned in a 2-for-3 performance with an RBI double in the seventh. He's hitting .320 with a 1.037 OPS in AFL play.

Nationals (Salt River)

The Nationals had several players appear for Salt River against Scottsdale on Thursday, including three who are among their top 30 prospects. No. 2 prospect Carter Kieboom -- No. 37 overall -- went 1-for-3 with a double, walk and two runs scored. Right fielder Daniel Johnson, Washington's No. 7 prospect, took an 0-for-4 with a strikeout. No. 15 prospect Tres Barrera was 2-for-4 and drove in three runs.

Jake Noll was the designated hitter, and went 1-for-4 with a double and two RBIs. Left-hander Ben Braymer tossed a scoreless inning in relief, striking out two. Fellow left-hander Jordan Mills surrendered four runs on two hits, walking two over one-third of an inning. And left-hander Taylor Guilbeau gave up a run on two hits over two-thirds of an inning.

Phillies (Scottsdale)

Philadelphia's No. 11 prospect, shortstop Arquimedes Gamboa, went 1-for-3 with a single. First baseman Darick Hall went 0-for-4 with a pair of strikeouts. Right fielder Austin Listi was 0-for-2, but drew two walks and scored twice. Right-hander Tyler Viza started and gave up five runs (four earned) on six hits over 3 1/3 innings, walking one and striking out two. Right-hander Seth McGarry pitched the sixth and seventh innings, walking two and fanning two. Left-hander Jonathan Hennigan pitched a scoreless eighth, giving up a hit, walking one and striking out one.

NL Central

Brewers (Peoria)

Second baseman Keston Hiura, the Brewers' top prospect, hit his third homer of the fall, a two-run shot, as part of a 2-for-4 day, raising his fall average to .326. No. 19 prospect Trent Grisham was 0-for-4, but a trio of Brewers prospects had solid relief outings for Peoria, with Miguel Sanchez allowing a run in two innings, Jon Olczak picking up his first win of the fall with a clean eighth and Daniel Brown tallying his first save with a hitless ninth.

Cardinals (Surprise)

Andy Young hit a solo homer -- his second of the fall -- and knocked a two-run double as part of a four-hit game, while catcher Jeremy Martinez collected his first AFL RBIs with a two-run single in the eighth. Cardinals No. 30 prospect Connor Jones bounced back from his rough previous outing with two scoreless innings, striking out two and allowing two hits.

Cubs (Mesa)

Cubs No. 6 prospect Nico Hoerner is hitting .326 this fall after knocking two hits for the third time in his last four games. Mesa starter Erick Leal threw four scoreless innings, striking out three while scattering two hits, before his bullpen gave up four runs in the final four frames.

Pirates (Surprise)

Shortstop and Pirates No. 5 prospect Cole Tucker extended his hitting streak to four games with a pair of hits, including an RBI single, and designated hitter Will Craig added a pair of hits for the second straight game. No. 8 prospect Bryan Reynolds was 0-for-3 with a pair of walks. Matt Eckelman and Geoff Hartlieb were each charged with two runs in relief, though both of Eckelman's runs were unearned.

Reds (Scottsdale)

Left fielder Taylor Trammell, Cincinnati's No. 3 prospect (No. 17 overall) singled in four at-bats. Mark Kolozsvary was the starting catcher and went 0-for-4 with three strikeouts. And right-hander Alex Powers pitched a clean ninth inning to pick up the save.

NL West

D-backs (Salt River)

Right-hander Kevin Ginkel tossed a perfect eighth inning, striking out the side. He has a 3.38 ERA during AFL play.

Dodgers (Glendale)

Dodgers No. 2 prospect Keibert Ruiz was 2-for-6 with a two-run single to cap Glendale's 11-run ninth inning. First baseman Jared Walker was the only Glendale starter without a hit, but he walked twice and scored a pair of runs. Cody Thomas drove in a run in the ninth inning on a bases-loaded hit-by-pitch and scored two runs in a 1-for-4 afternoon.

Giants (Scottsdale)

Right-hander Melvin Adon, San Francisco's No. 19 prospect, tossed 1 2/3 scoreless frames, striking out two, lowering his AFL ERA to 1.13. No. 28 prospect C.J. Hinojosa had one plate appearance as a pinch-hitter, and made the most of hit, delivering a bases-clearing triple in the seventh inning.

Padres (Peoria)

Catcher Austin Allen, the Padres' No. 25 prospect, was solid on both sides of the ball, going 2-for-4 with a run and throwing out speedy Cubs prospect Nico Hoerner trying to steal second base. No. 13 prospect Buddy Reed doubled and scored for the second time in three games, while No. 23 prospect Hudson Potts was 1-for-3 with a walk.

Rockies (Salt River)

Rockies No. 11 prospect Tyler Nevin played third base and went 1-for-2 with a double and two walks. Right-hander Jesus Tinoco pitched a scoreless sixth inning, yielding one hit. And Josh Fuentes, playing first base, turned in a 2-for-4 performance with a pair of singles and a run scored.

Are the most difficult times over? 4 offseason questions for the White Sox

By Paul Sullivan / Chicago Tribune / October 25, 2018

This is the third and final installment in a series of analyses of the White Sox entering the offseason.

1. How patient is White Sox Chairman Jerry Reinsdorf?

Reinsdorf committed to the White Sox rebuild two years ago, knowing it would take time to turn things around. But he probably didn't think it would be this hard to watch.

The White Sox are coming off a 100-loss season in Year 2, so it may take longer than anyone anticipated. Reinsdorf will turn 83 in February, so the sooner the better.

When asked about Reinsdorf's patience level in May, general manager Rick Hahn admitted it was "tough" on a man who has spent more than three decades trying to put winning teams on the field and has seven championship rings, including one from the 2005 Sox.

"It doesn't make the short term any easier, but he's just like the rest of us," Hahn said. "He believes in the plan. He believes in the vision. He's very optimistic about the progress we've made in the last 18 months, and he's having some difficult nights in the short term."

But the proceeding four months were even more painful. Top prospect Yoan Moncada struggled in his first full season in the majors. Several key prospects, including Luis Robert and Jake Burger, had their development slowed or halted by injuries.

And after the Sox finally saw the light at the end of the tunnel with Michael Kopech's call-up in August, reconstructive elbow surgery ended his season and will keep him sidelined until 2020.

The numbers don't lie. The Sox finished 24th in runs scored and 26th in on-base percentage, while their hitters set an all-time major-league strikeout record. They were fourth from the bottom in pitching and led the majors in walks allowed, while their starters ranked 26th with a combined 5.07 ERA.

Hahn declared near season's end: "We're certainly closer now than we were 12 months ago to being ready to contend."

Maybe, but all leading indicators suggest the Sox are still a long way from contending, unless their top prospects all click next year and they make some major offseason additions.

2. Will the Sox spend?

Hahn noted during his season-ending news conference the Sox have "the flexibility to pursue (free agents) and we are going to be opportunistic and respond to the market accordingly."

That's good news for Sox fans, assuming premier free agents want to come to a team that lost 100 games and isn't expected to contend in 2019.

"We've made no secret that when the time comes for adding more finishing pieces that we knew those were going to have to come via free agency," Hahn said. "While we are not yet in a position realistically to be adding so-called finishing pieces, we are in a position where we need to be opportunistic with regards to the free-agent market."

Manny Machado is the name most often linked to the Sox, and he would be a good fit in anyone's lineup. Whether his lackadaisical attitude toward hustling is a turn-off to Reinsdorf is unknown, though he frequently has taken gambles on controversial athletes, including Dennis Rodman, Albert Belle and A.J. Pierzynski, to name a few.

There are several quality free-agent options who don't mind hustling, including Michael Brantley, Marwin Gonzalez, Adam Jones and Andrew McCutchen, and they all would be more affordable and less polarizing.

With the flexibility to add at least one big-name bat and a veteran starter, look for the Sox to be much more aggressive this winter than last.

3. Will Rick Renteria still be around in 2020?

With all the uproar over Joe Maddon entering the final year of his Cubs contract, little has been said of Renteria going into the last year of his three-year deal with the Sox.

The Sox have lost 95 and 100 games in the first two years of the Renteria era, but he can't be judged on wins and losses in a rebuild like this. The key questions are whether the young players are developing, whether the team plays hard and if the rebuild is heading in the right direction.

Moncada's difficult start — leading the majors in strikeouts in 2018 — can't be blamed on Renteria. But if Moncada fails to improve in 2019, it's not going to reflect well on the manager who was hired in part for his teaching ability.

One thing Renteria does frequently is bench or remove players from games, including Moncada, Tim Anderson, Leury Garcia and Avisail Garcia, for lack of hustle or playing with nonchalance.

"Ricky's boys don't quit" was a marketing ploy that sometimes backfired.

"This is a man's game," Renteria said after one such incident. "This is a game in which focus and concentration are really required of you. You are playing against the best in the game. We want you to stay focused (on) maximizing your ability over time."

Chances are good Renteria gets an extension of at least two years, though Hahn may have to get it done before the end of spring. It'll be hard to justify an extension if the Sox endure another season of 90 to 100 losses.

4. Are the most difficult times over?

It's easy to forget now, but the Sox went on a 14-6 run from mid-August to Labor Day, culminating with Matt Davidson's walk-off home run in a 4-2 victory over the Tigers.

Carlos Rodon was dealing and Kopech finally had arrived. They beat the Yankees in two of three games in New York, and split a four-game home series with the Red Sox, who wound up winning 108 games and now have a 2-0 lead in the World Series.

Optimism abounded. Many, including me, believed the Sox had turned a corner in the rebuild.

But they finished with a brutal 6-18 stretch, including eight losses in their last nine games, ending the season with a thud. The shocking news of Sept. 7 that Kopech suffered a significant tear in the ulnar collateral ligament of his right elbow was devastating, and it was all downhill from there.

It couldn't get any worse, or so you would think.

Perhaps the lesson of September is to stop trying to gauge a turning point based on a two-week stretch or the arrival of a highly-touted prospect.

There's still more suffering ahead, and more patience will be necessary to get through it, for Reinsdorf and die-hards alike.

But Eloy Jimenez, Dylan Cease, Zack Burdi and other promising young players should begin their major-league careers at some point in 2019, and eventually Hahn's collection of talent will be growing together on the South Side.

It's not easy being a Sox fan, but this you already knew.

White Sox' Adam Engel named finalist for Gold Glove Award

By Daryl Van Schouwen / Sun-Times / October 25, 2018

White Sox center fielder Adam Engel is a finalist for a Gold Glove Award, given to the best individual fielding performances at each position in the American and National Leagues.

The Angels' Mike Trout and Red Sox' Jackie Bradley Jr. are the other finalists at Engel's position. The winners will be announced on ESPN's Gold Glove show Nov. 4 (8 p.m. CST).

Engel received some national attention when he made three home-run saving catches above the center-field wall in a seven-day span this season, robbing Greg Bird and Kyle Higashioka of the Yankees and Yonder Alonso of the Indians.

"It feels good, especially when it gets the reaction from your pitcher," Engel said at the time. "As a defender, that's what you want to do. You just want to make plays for your pitcher."

Engel, 26, played his second season in the majors and his first as the Sox' every day center fielder, appearing in 143 games. He batted .235/.279/.336.

AL Finalists
Pitcher

Corey Kluber, Indians
Dallas Keuchel, Astros
Masahiro Tanaka, Yankees
Catcher

Yan Gomes, Indians
Martin Maldonado, Astros
Salvador Perez, Royals
First baseman

Justin Smoak, Blue Jays
Matt Olson, A's
Mitch Moreland, Red Sox
Second baseman

Jed Lowrie, A's
Ian Kinsler, Red Sox
Rougned Odor, Rangers
Third baseman

Alex Bregman, Astros
Jose Ramirez, Indians
Matt Chapman, A's
Shortstop

Marcus Semien, A's
Andrelton Simmons, Angels
Francisco Lindor, Indians
Left fielder

Brett Gardner, Yankees
Alex Gordon, Royals
Andrew Benintendi, Red Sox
Center fielder

Adam Engel, White Sox
Mike Trout, Angels
Jackie Bradley Jr., Red Sox
Right fielder

Kole Calhoun, Angels
Mookie Betts, Red Sox
Aaron Judge, Yankees
NL Finalists
Pitcher

Julio Teheran, Braves
Zack Greinke, D-backs
Clayton Richard, Padres
Catcher

Buster Posey, Giants
Yadier Molina, Cardinals

Manny Pina, Brewers
First baseman

Joey Votto, Reds
Freddie Freeman, Braves
Anthony Rizzo, Cubs
Second baseman

DJ LeMahieu, Rockies
Kolten Wong, Cardinals
Javier Baez, Cubs
Third baseman

Nolan Arenado, Rockies
Anthony Rendon, Nationals
Travis Shaw, Brewers
Shortstop

Freddy Galvis, Padres
Brandon Crawford, Giants
Nick Ahmed, D-backs
Left fielder

Christian Yelich, Brewers
Corey Dickerson, Pirates
Adam Duvall, Braves
Center fielder

Billy Hamilton, Reds
Lorenzo Cain, Brewers
Ender Inciarte, Braves
Right fielder

Jon Jay, D-backs
Jason Heyward, Cubs
Nick Markakis, Braves
