



MEDIA CLIPS – Nov. 2, 2018

**Lawrence thriving since working with Reed
Rockies pitching prospect learns from former sidearm, set to pitch in AFL Fall Stars Game
Thomas Harding | MLB.com | Nov. 1st, 2018**

DENVER -- The Rockies reached into their past to help righty relief pitcher Justin Lawrence possibly become a key part of their future.

Lawrence was the Rockies' 12th-round Draft pick in 2015 and has an interesting backstory: He struggled at Jacksonville University, then transferred to Daytona State (junior college) and became a low sidearm pitcher while attracting scouting interest. His pro career started slowly, but in the last two seasons, Lawrence, the Rockies' No. 17 prospect, has posted ERAs of 1.65 in 2017 and 2.65 in '18 at two Class A levels.

In Arizona Fall League play, Lawrence -- who needs to be added to the Rockies' 40-man roster, and should be a prime Rule 5 Draft candidate if he isn't -- has a 3.52 ERA in seven appearances, and he has been chosen to represent the Rockies for Saturday night's AFL Fall Stars Game.

To help Lawrence, who turns 24 on Nov. 25, the Rockies enlisted former Major League sidearm reliever Steve Reed to work with him at the start of his career. Lawrence's fastball has improved to 96-99 mph consistently, and he hit 100 mph twice during this past season at Class A Advanced Lancaster and six times in AFL play, which makes him difficult for right-handed hitters. He also is competitive against left-handers because he has maintained the solid changeup that was part of the package when he made strides in college.

"A lot of that was delivery work, and work over the rubber -- Steve really helped him take the next step," Rockies senior player development director Zach Wilson said. "Steve, being a sidearmer himself, he's got expertise in that area. Even the best pitching coaches, teaching a sidearm guy is difficult. The fact we were able to get Steve on board really helped Justin take it to the next level."

Lawrence researched Reed, who spent seven years over two stints with the Rockies and pitched for six other teams, and found it encouraging that the organization saw enough to have Reed tutor him. Reed taught Lawrence to monitor his stride, keep his body closed and make sure his momentum stays toward the plate rather than fall to the side.

"From an organizational standpoint, it really showed a commitment from the Rockies in my development," Lawrence said. "They didn't have to do that for me. They went out of their way to fly a guy out to work with me for two or three days. It really pushed me to continue on, because I believe in myself and they believe in me the same way. It goes hand in hand."

"It's getting to the point where everything is starting to click and make sense. I feel a bit more in control with everything I'm doing."

The Fall Stars Game is a chance for Lawrence to show his rapid development.

"The level of talent here is the best by far I have ever seen, so to represent my entire organization in this game is an absolute honor," he said.

Exhibition in Albuquerque

The Rockies will play an exhibition game in Albuquerque, N.M., against the Triple-A Isotopes on March 25, 2019, the parent club and the affiliate announced Thursday during a news conference in Albuquerque. It will be the Rockies' first exhibition game at Isotopes Park since they became affiliated with the club in 2015, and their first appearance in Albuquerque since '10, when they met the Mariners.

It'll be one of two games the Rockies will play after breaking camp in Scottsdale, Ariz. They'll meet the Twins at CenturyLink Sports Complex on March 26 -- two days before the Rockies open the regular season at Miami.

These players could get qualifying offers today

MLB.com | Nov. 1st, 2018

Teams have until 5 p.m. ET to extend their prospective free agents a qualifying offer -- a one-year contract worth \$17.9 million (the amount is the mean salary of MLB's 125 highest-paid players).

Players who receive a qualifying offer have 10 days to accept or reject it. That deadline is Nov. 12, at 5 p.m. ET.

The qualifying offer system has been in place since the 2012-13 offseason. In the six previous offseasons with this system in place, there have been 73 qualifying offers issued, and only five (Brett Anderson, Jeremy Hellickson, Neil Walker, Colby Rasmus and Matt Wieters) have accepted them.

The rules regarding Draft pick compensation for signing players who rejected QOs changed a bit with the implementation of the new Collective Bargaining Agreement prior to the 2017 season, and the penalties for signing such players are less strict. A complete breakdown of those rules is at the bottom of this story and can also be found [here](#).

Below is a list of free agents who are considered candidates to receive a qualifying offer. Players who are traded during the season or who have received a qualifying offer before are not eligible to receive one. Some notable players who fit these categories are as follows:

Not eligible due to trades

Manny Machado, Andrew McCutchen, Zach Britton, Nathan Eovaldi, Josh Donaldson, Matt Harvey, Brian Dozier, J.A. Happ, Wilson Ramos

Not eligible due to previous qualifying offers

Nelson Cruz, Walker, David Robertson, Daniel Murphy (who was traded this year anyway)

We will be updating this list as we get news on qualifying offers. For players who do receive qualifying offers, we will include the level of Draft pick compensation that their previous club could receive if they sign elsewhere.

Could receive a qualifying offer

A's: Jed Lowrie, 2B; Jonathan Lucroy, C

Astros: Dallas Keuchel, LHP; Charlie Morton, RHP; Marwin Gonzalez, UTIL; Evan Gattis, DH

Braves: Nick Markakis, OF

Brewers: Wade Miley, LHP

Cardinals: Bud Norris, RHP

Cubs: Justin Wilson, LHP

D-backs: Patrick Corbin, LHP; A.J. Pollock, OF; Daniel Descalso, INF

Dodgers: Yasmani Grandal, C; Hyun-Jin Ryu, LHP

Giants: Hunter Pence, OF

Indians: Andrew Miller, LHP; Michael Brantley, OF; Cody Allen, RHP; Lonnie Chisenhall, OF

Nationals: Bryce Harper, OF

Padres: Freddy Galvis, SS

Rangers: Adrian Beltre, 3B

Red Sox: Craig Kimbrel, RHP; Joe Kelly, RHP

Rockies: Adam Ottavino, RHP; DJ LeMahieu, 2B, Carlos Gonzalez, OF

Orioles: Adam Jones, OF

Yankees: CC Sabathia, LHP

Qualifying-offer rules explained

Under the previous Collective Bargaining Agreement, if a team made a qualifying offer to a player and he signed elsewhere, it would get a supplemental first-round Draft pick (right after the end of the first round). That has all changed.

Under the new rules, if the team that loses the free agent is a revenue-sharing recipient, based on its revenues and market size, then the selection -- if and only if the lost player signs for at least \$50 million -- will be awarded a pick between the first round and Competitive Balance Round A of the 2019 MLB Draft. If the player signs for less than \$50 million, the compensation pick for those teams would come after Competitive Balance Round B, which follows the second round.

The following 16 teams currently qualify for these picks: A's, Braves, Brewers, D-backs, Indians, Mariners, Marlins, Orioles, Padres, Pirates, Rays, Reds, Rockies, Royals, Tigers and Twins.

If the team that loses the player does not receive revenue sharing and did not exceed the luxury-tax salary threshold the previous season, its compensatory pick will come after Competitive Balance Round B. The value of the player's contract doesn't matter in this case. The 12 clubs that fall into this category are the Angels, Astros, Blue Jays, Cardinals, Cubs, Dodgers, Giants, Mets, Phillies, Rangers, White Sox and Yankees.

If the team that loses the player went over the luxury-tax threshold, the compensation pick will be placed after the fourth round has been completed (as with the previous scenario, it doesn't matter how much the player signs for). The two clubs in this group are the Nationals and Red Sox.

Rockies announce 2019 exhibition game at Isotopes Park in Albuquerque
The news was announced in a press conference from the stadium on Thursday afternoon
Kyle Newman | DenverPost.com | Nov. 2, 2018

Colorado will head to Albuquerque for a 2019 exhibition game, with the Rockies set to play on the afternoon of March 25 at Isotopes Park against their own Triple-A affiliate.

The news was announced by Isotopes general manager John Traub, Rockies general manger Jeff Bridich and Albuquerque mayor Tim Keller in a press conference from Isotopes Park on Thursday afternoon.

“We’re going to make it a fun event for fans, and we’re going to make it a game that will springboard our big-league team into the season,” Bridich said.

Tickets for the game go on sale to the general public Feb. 1. Following the exhibition in Albuquerque, Colorado will head to Florida for its final spring training game March 26 against the Twins before opening the regular season two days later at the Marlins.

Albuquerque Isotopes

@ABQTopes

Rockies to play exhibition game at Isotopes Park

[https://www.pscp.tv/w/bqtgMjFYsIFrR2tScIhRTHI8MWRqeFhPZ2JhTVZKWWhUBPi4jdluaxhTAnWM_vPXDnHP8m_uKxLTi4Q3UY6OO ...](https://www.pscp.tv/w/bqtgMjFYsIFrR2tScIhRTHI8MWRqeFhPZ2JhTVZKWWhUBPi4jdluaxhTAnWM_vPXDnHP8m_uKxLTi4Q3UY6OO...)

The Rockies are also straying from their typical Salt River stomping grounds earlier in spring training, as Colorado takes on Arizona for a two-game set March 9 and 10 at Estadio de Béisbol Monterrey in Monterrey, Mexico.

Javier Báez, DJ LeMahieu or Kolten Wong? Sizing up each of the NL second base Gold Glove finalists
Mark Simon | TheAthletic.com | Nov 1, 2018

In many of the articles that Sports Info Solutions has written for The Athletic, the most popular player we see mentioned in the comments is Cubs second baseman Javier Báez. One thing we often hear is that our group hasn't given Báez enough credit for his Gold Glove-worthy defense at second base.

That's hardly true — we've given Báez a Fielding Bible Award as the game's top multi-position defender in each of the last three seasons, including 2018. But it's easy to understand why Cubs fans are so excited about Báez. He's an electric player with a jam-packed highlight reel. He, along with fellow NL Golden Glove nominees Kolten Wong of the Cardinals and DJ LeMahieu of the Rockies are three top-flight stars who've all had great defensive seasons this year.

Which of the three finalists at second base should win the award when it's announced on Sunday night? (Cubs fans, we'll see you in the comments.)

Let's take a look at their résumés.

The case for Báez to win is not so much in his range, but his flash. Most defensive metrics don't account for how a play is made, whether extra effort or something remarkable went into it. SIS has something to handle this, known as Good Fielding Plays (GFPs). GFPs cover Web Gems, high degree of difficulty plays and things like the amazing tags for which Báez is known.

"He has Grade 80 hands," said one scout. "Arguably the best in the game."

Báez had 25 Good Fielding Plays in 700 innings at second base, one more than Wong in about 200 fewer innings, and two more than LeMahieu in about 400 fewer innings. Báez's 3.6 Good Plays per 100 innings are easily the most among NL second basemen.

That and being the best of the three at converting double plays are Báez's best arguments for winning. He wows.

The case for LeMahieu — who won a Gold Glove in 2014 and '17 — is in his reliability. SIS also tracks Defensive Misplays & Errors — those are plays that go beyond your basic fielding errors (which are included) to cover things such as failing to complete a double play or dropping a throw from the outfield that cost an opportunity for an out.

Báez had 21 Misplays & Errors in 699 innings at second base this season. Wong had 20 in 896. LeMahieu had 12 in 1,115. LeMahieu's 1.1 Misplays & Errors per 100 innings is easily the lowest rate among second basemen.

That's not to say he doesn't make some pretty good plays, too:

This brings us to Wong, the 2018 Fielding Bible Award winner for second base, who has been vocal in his belief that he should win the Gold Glove. Take a look at the numbers and you'll understand why.

Wong led all second basemen when it came to the Range and Positioning component of Defensive Runs Saved, meaning he did the best at taking batted balls and turning them into outs, the paramount job of any defensive player.

Wong was above average on getting outs in all three areas that we evaluate: against balls hit in the first base-second base hole, on balls hit up the middle, and against balls we term "straight-on" — those hit within the vicinity of where an average second baseman plays. He was the best among second basemen on balls hit in the hole and straight-on, and above-average on balls hit up the middle.

LeMahieu was almost as good as Wong, but was a notch behind in all three characteristics. Wong's range converted to 19 Range and Positioning Runs Saved, four more than LeMahieu, in around 200 fewer innings.

Báez comes out well behind by this measure. He was above average on making plays on balls hit up the middle, but below average against balls hit straight-on or in the first base-second base hole. Admittedly, some of this could be positioning based and not entirely Báez's fault, but Wong's edge is a sizable one.

When you factor everything into play — range, flash, reliability and double-play turning, the numbers come out this way.

Wong finished with 19 Defensive Runs Saved. LeMahieu finished with 18. And Baez had five. Even if we prorate it on a per-inning basis, the numbers come out in the same order.

But we fully understand if you feel differently, as we know many of you will. There's a lot to like about all three.

Firing up the Hot Stove with five of the biggest questions facing teams this winter
Cliff Corcoran | TheAthletic.com | Oct 30, 2018

Baseball has no offseason, certainly not here at The Athletic. No sooner was the biggest question of the postseason answered (Red Sox in five) than our baseball-hungry minds turned to what comes next. So, in order to get this Hot Stove lit, here are five of the biggest questions facing teams in the 107 days between the last out of the World Series and pitchers and catchers reporting on February 13.

How much of an additional commitment should the Dodgers make to keep Clayton Kershaw from opting out?

Both starting pitchers in the final game of the World Series, Kershaw and Boston's David Price, have opt-outs in their contracts this fall. However, both must use them or lose them by October 31. Kershaw reportedly thought he had 10 days after the World Series to make his decision. Realizing his actual window was smaller, he went almost immediately from the game mound to the negotiating table to try to find a way to remain a Dodger. Both Kershaw and the Dodgers want their relationship to continue, but the mere fact that the two sides are talking is evidence that Kershaw isn't going to simply decline his opt-out and play for the \$65 million he is owed over the next two seasons. At the same time, Kershaw's chronic back issues and on-field decline — particularly with regard to his velocity and strikeout rate — are red flags that will limit just how much of an additional commitment the Dodgers are willing to make to their franchise player. It's difficult to envision them not coming to terms, but getting it done by Wednesday might not happen, which means Kershaw might opt-out only to allow the negotiations to continue.

As for Price, it's difficult to imagine the 33-year-old opting out of the \$127 million he is owed over the next four years, but given his strong second half (2.25 ERA over his final 11 starts) and narrative-busting postseason (3-0, 1.42 ERA over his last three October starts, two of them in the World Series), he has a new-found bond with the city of Boston and more leverage than expected to try to extract additional years or dollars out of the Red Sox. The offseason's other opt-outs, however, are non-factors. Elvis Andrus has already decided not to use his, and there's a near-zero chance that Jason Heyward (owed \$106 million over next five years) or Mark Melancon (owed \$28 million for the next two) will reach a different decision, though Andrus and Heyward will have the option again next fall.

Who will the Orioles hire to raise their team from the dead?

There are four prominent managerial positions open in the major leagues in the wake of the World Series. The Giants need a general manager, the Rangers need a field manager and the Orioles need both. Coming off a 115-loss season, the Orioles fired manager Buck Showalter and GM Dan Duquette, who collaborated to snap a 14-year playoff drought in Baltimore and sent the Orioles to the postseason three times between 2012 and 2016. However, the team Duquette built and Showalter guided now is now in ruins, carved up by age, free agency and a thorough late-season housecleaning that sent team-controlled youngsters Jonathan Schoop and Kevin Gausman to new teams along with pending free agents Manny Machado, Zach Britton and Brad Brach. There has been considerable palace intrigue in Baltimore this season, much of it covered by in detail by The Athletic's Ken Rosenthal, who spent 14 years with the Baltimore Sun earlier in his career. Owner Peter Angelos's sons, John and Lou, have taken on larger roles. Vice president of baseball operations Brady Anderson has jockeyed for position. Meanwhile, both Duquette and several of the players he traded this summer have since criticized Showalter's coaching staff for its resistance to analytics. With something very close to a blank slate — only Chris Davis and Alex Cobb are under contract past 2019 — an influx of international spending money via the trades of Brach and Gausman, and the top pick in next year's amateur draft, the Orioles have a real chance to change their culture and build a team that can compete with the Yankees and Red Sox in the middle of the next decade. For that to happen, however, they have to choose the right leaders now.

Should they get involved in the bidding for Bryce Harper or Manny Machado?

This is the offseason many of us have been anticipating for years, and the primary reason for that was the enticing free agency of 26-year-old studs Harper and Machado. Because of their combination of youth, talent and production, the two could land record-setting contracts this offseason, but both arrive at free agency with concerns that could undermine their earning potential. For Harper, the primary concern is a sketchy injury history which has contributed to his inability to live up to the promise of his unanimous Most Valuable Player win at the age of 22. Harper has averaged just 2.5 wins above replacement over the last three seasons, per Baseball-Reference, and his walk-year was marred by the second-lowest batting average in his career and a dismal performance in the field that some attribute to Harper's fear of suffering a contract-altering injury (his injury problems started with a couple of collisions with outfield walls in his sophomore season). For Machado, his desire to play shortstop, where his glove produced mixed results in 2018, and continued immaturity on the field — be it in his approach at the plate, lack of hustle or his needlessly antagonistic and occasionally suspect play on the bases — complicate a free agency that should be a slam dunk coming off Machado's best overall offensive season. Because of their youth, both players are likely to be well worth a nine-figure contract, but with speculation ranging past

\$300 million (if not \$400 million) in total value, teams have to consider how much of a commitment they are willing to make to a single player, even one as young and talented as these two.

Should they trade that star with dwindling team control or extend him?

The Diamondbacks picked up Paul Goldschmidt's \$14.5 million option on Monday, but that doesn't necessarily mean he'll be a Diamondback in 2019. Goldschmidt is 31, will reach free agency a year from now and the Diamondbacks hopes of winning a championship with him have withered. Given his team-friendly salary, there's considerable speculation that he may have more value to the team as a trade chit that could return a blue-chip prospect or two. The same goes for the Giants and Madison Bumgarner, who will be a free agent after making a mere \$12 million in 2019. It seems more likely that the Rockies will try to extend Nolan Arenado, who is also entering his walk year, but they would likely need to come to terms by Opening Day to prevent Arenado from testing the market. The same goes for the Nationals and their underrated third baseman, Anthony Rendon. Elsewhere, given the shoulder issues he battled late this year, could the Red Sox consider trading Chris Sale, who is due to make just \$15 million in the final year his contract? Might they try to flip Xander Bogaerts, who will enter his walk year off a career year at the plate, given Machado's availability? Other walk-year players who could be on the block include White Sox first baseman José Abreu, NL Central second basemen Scooter Gennett and Jonathan Schoop, and the Yankees' Sonny Gray and Dellin Betances. Above all is the question of whether or not the Angels might actually be better off cashing in the last two years of Mike Trout's contract to initiate a rebuild. Which brings us to the biggest question of all . . .

Reload or rebuild?

Last winter, the Angels reloaded only to wind up with the exact same record in 2018 as 2017, 80-82. Given that, Shohei Ohtani's recent Tommy John surgery and manager Mike Scioscia's overdue departure, it might be time for a rebuild in Anaheim, with Trout, Andrelton Simmons and Justin Upton serving as the team's top trade chits. The Giants are in a similar position, having failed in their reloading attempt this past season. With the front office turning over after an 89-loss season, San Francisco seems headed for a reboot. That decision is less of a given for Arizona, who opened September in first place before collapsing down the stretch, but could lose A.J. Pollock and Patrick Corbin to free agency this winter and are entering Goldschmidt's walk year. The Pirates' acquisition of Chris Archer at July's non-waiver trade deadline suggests they expect a return to relevance in 2019, and the Twins' emphasis on communication with younger players in

their recent hiring of manager Rocco Baldelli reportedly came out of an explicit belief in their struggling young core. However, it remains to be seen what direction the Mets will take under agent-turned-GM Brodie Van Wagenen, particularly given the rise of the Braves and Phillies in their division, though my gut reaction is that you hire an agent to negotiate contracts, such as an extension for Van Wagenen's now-former client Jacob deGrom, not trades. Meanwhile, free agency has left the second-place Nationals with several holes to fill, and near-miss teams such as the Cardinals, Mariners and Rays, all of whom won between 88 and 90 games this year, have reason to be aggressive in reloading their rosters for 2019, as do the wild-card teams in Oakland and Colorado.

BSN Exclusive: Trevor Story shares his favorite record-breaking moment
Drew Creasman | BSNDenver.com | Nov. 1, 2018

DENVER – It was a banner year in 2018 for Colorado Rockies shortstop Trevor Story.

After a rough first four months of 2017 saw him strikeout at an astronomical rate, raising questions about whether or not the offense of his rookie season could be seen as a mistake, he vaulted himself into the MVP conversation by putting together one of the best all-around seasons for anybody who laced on a pair of cleats in MLB this year.

Posting a slash line of .291/.348/.567 with 37 home runs and 27 stolen bases and getting snubbed in the Gold Glove nomination process, Story couldn't have asked for a much better third year in the Bigs with the exception of one incredibly poorly timed injury.

"It's been nice," Story told BSN Denver about his bounceback. "Baseball is such a tough game. Mentally, physically. I feel like over a long season, you can get up and down, but it's vital to really believe in yourself throughout the whole thing. It's been nice. I really tried to ride that momentum last year into spring and into the season and it's worked."

He found the key, or at least a key, to turning his fortunes around by picking the brains of some men who had been down this path before.

"I talk to Nolan a lot about hitting and approach," he says. "Our hitting guys help me out a lot. At the end of the year – we were always working throughout the year – you try to find something that clicks and you ride with it. For me, it was all about my tempo. Getting going at the right time and just being slow with my body. That helped. That got me back to where I felt like I could be a good player and more consistent. So, that's what I was doing."

The natural result of a more complete approach at the plate, and this more measured tempo, was a dramatic reduction in strikeouts, otherwise known as empty at-bats. What happened to those encounters? They turned into walks and singles more than anything else as his slugging percentage remained steady.

And getting to first base more meant that he finally got to show off a part of his game that was prevalent throughout his minor league career but mostly absent at the majors; his elite speed.

“It’s been fun,” he says of turning the basepaths into his own sanctuary. “I wanted to make that a big part of my game. Going into the offseason, that was what I wanted to do because I felt like it could help us win. Nolan was a big part of that, too. He told me that I should be more aggressive, I should go, it’s going to help us win. After he said that I thought, ‘Let’s do it.’ [Also] learning from Chuck. Tony Diaz has been huge to me in that aspect. We study the pitcher every day and see what we can get on him.”

Then he reiterated. “It’s been fun.”

That fun translated to arguably the best single season out of any shortstop in franchise history which is pretty remarkable when you consider the legacy of Troy Tulowitzki. But Tulo’s well-documented health issues and a blistering pace from Story meant he was able to pass his former mentor in multiple big categories like home runs and extra-base hits.

In fact, he had so many XBHs that only Ernie Banks could claim to have tallied more out of the shortstop position by the All-Star break.

Depending on what numbers you have a particular affinity for, your favorite record-breaking performance from Story this season may vary. But for him, it comes down to matching a hero he watched from his hometown in Irving, Texas.

“I guess the one with A-Rod,” he says. I’m not sure the numbers of it. But I guess it’s just me and him.”

On September 11, Story ripped an RBI double that gave him 40 two-baggers, 30 home runs, and 25 stolen bases. He and Alex Rodriguez are the only shortstops in MLB history to have put together such a season.

“Growing up, he was the best hitter, the best fielder, the best everything. I was taken back by it a little bit. He sent me that video and that was pretty special to me.”

Of course, that was Story’s favorite individual moment from the season (that and his three-home-run night) but he plays for the team and so he couldn’t escape noting that the height of the season came in getting to celebrate in champagne a second-straight postseason appearance.

“It’s special,” he says. “You always need to celebrate any time you get a postseason berth because it’s so hard. It’s such a long season. Celebrate that for a little bit.”

The season didn’t end the way Story and the Rockies would have hoped. But both the club and the player took massive steps forward in 2018 showing that the next few years can belong to them.

Rockies Nevin Healthy: Physically, Mentally and On the Field
Tracy Ringolsby | InsidetheSeams.com | Oct. 31, 2018

SCOTTSDALE, Az. – Life is good for Tyler Nevin.

He is coming off an impact season with the Rockies High-A Lancaster affiliate where he hit .328, second best in the California League, with career highs in doubles (25), home runs (13), and most of all games played (100).

And he is building on that success in the Arizona Fall League, where he is leading the league in hitting, just ahead of Vladimir Guerrero, Jr., the top-ranked prospect in baseball, who is in line for a starting job with the big-league Blue Jays next spring. Playing three out of six games each week, he even leads the AFL in RBI with 14, and has hit safely in all nine games in which he has played.

Earlier this week, he was selected the AFL Player of the Week.

It is, said Nevin, about time.

Date	OPP	AB	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI
Oct. 10	SUR	4	1	1	0	0	2
Oct. 11	SCO	5	3	0	0	0	1
Oct. 15	@PEJ	2	1	0	0	0	2
Oct. 17	MSS	4	2	0	0	0	2
Oct. 20	PEJ	4	1	0	0	0	0
Oct. 23	SUR	4	3	0	2	0	4
Oct. 25	@SCO	2	1	0	0	0	0
Oct. 27	PEJ	5	2	0	1	0	1
Oct. 30	@MSS	2	1	0	0	0	2
Avg:	469	32	15	1	3	0	14

The 38th player selected in the 2015 first-year player draft, Nevin has been slowed in development by a series of injuries that limited him to 83 games combined his first two full season in pro ball. There was a hamstring injury so severe that

Nevin played only one game – getting one at-bat, in which he doubled – at short-season A Boise in 2016. And then came broken bone in his hand on a “fluke swing” that allowed him to play only 82 games between Boise (six games) and low-A Asheville in 2017.

Then came 2018, and the trip to Lancaster. He had a minor quad injury in 2018, but that was nothing compared to the two previous seasons. And with the chance to get regular playing time, the potential scouting director Bill Schmidt and area scout Jon Lukens saw when Nevin was at Poway (Ca.) High School back in 2015 was on display.

“Obviously, Schmidt knew what he had when he drafted him, in terms of the tools,” said Zach Wilson, senior director of player development. “It’s difficult to transfer those tools and skills when you are not on the field. ... This year he was able to get some real development time, and the Fall League only expands that opportunity,

“He is finally able to show what he can do and improve in the ways he needs to improve.”

The first thing was to add versatility. A quality third base prospect, he began working at first base this year, and has focused on first base in the AFL. It’s the Rockies way of creating options, instead of pigeon-holing a player in one spot, where he could get blocked in his bid to get to the big leagues.

Just like the decision to send him to the AFL was built around getting Nevin more playing time, but more importantly to provide him a chance to face more advanced pitching to see how he handles that.

No problem. That .469 average he took into Wednesday’s games is evidence of that.

Finally.

“Everybody can say what they want, but I guarantee you, there is nobody more frustrated than me,” said Nevin. “That is 100 percent truth. Every time something like that has happened nobody was more upset, more disappointed, more bothered than I was.”

And that’s why Nevin was so eager to adopt a workout program designed to strengthen his lower body.

“Strengthening, but there’s also stretching, massaging, proper routines with the trainers,” he said. “I guarantee you nobody in the big leagues just rolls on the field every day with no treatment. Everybody, in their own sense, has their own way of going about it. Some people just have to figure it out a little earlier than others.

“Unfortunately, that’s what I had to do, but in the long run I think it is going to benefit me. I have had that learning curve in how to take care of my body. I would have rather avoided being hurt, but I have learned a lot of lessons throughout this process.”

His mother has helped him develop a workout program. A former nurse, she “has a good knowledge of how the body works, and she did physical therapy programs, too. And my dad went through injuries in his career.”

His father, Phil Nevin, was drafted by the Astros with the No. 1 overall pick in the 1992 draft. His physical challenges came at the big-league level, unlike Tyler’s challenge in his initial pro seasons.

An All-Star in 2001 when he hit 41 home runs and drove in 126 runs, Phil Nevin suffered a strained left elbow in 2002 and three games after returning to the lineup broke his left arm, trying to make a diving stop of a ground ball. In 2002 he dislocated his left shoulder making a diving catch in spring training.

“He’s been beneficial for me as a person and ballplayer,” said Tyler. “He has always been very supportive, very helpful. He always puts the attention on us. He doesn’t drag his past and his successes into us.

“It’s never, ‘Oh, when I played, this is what. ... It’s not like he is going out of his way, bragging about himself, making you feel to have to live up to that.”

Tyler grins when it is mentioned that for all he has been through, he is still only 21, having signed out of high school, the same age his father was when he was drafted out of Cal State Fullerton by the Astros, and four years younger than his father was when he made his big-league debut.

Tyler had interest from UCLA when he came out of high school, but was focused on signing a pro contract.

“My mom put it in a great way when I was weighing my options,” said Nevin. “She said. ‘You know, bottom line, you are going to school because you want to play baseball. You can do school whenever you want, but you get one shot at baseball.’”

Having grown up in a baseball family, he also was ready for life on the buses in the minor leagues.

“I felt I was mature enough as a player, as a person, to handle it,” said Nevin. “Going back to my dad and how he helped me, I followed him throughout the minor leagues as a player and when he has been coaching. I had seen minor league life. I knew what I was getting into. I have never looked back and said, ‘I should have gone to school.’ I am 100 percent confident I made the right decision.”

And the way he has played this year, when he has been healthy, has reinforced his confidence in his choice.

THE NEVIN FILES																			
Year	Tm	Lg	Lev	G	PA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	CS	B	S	B	O	BA
2015	Grand Junction		PION	Rk	53	223	189	29		50	15	1	2	18	3	7	29	42	.265
2016	Boise		NO RW	A-	1	1	1	1		1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.000
2017	Asheville		SALL	A	76	335	298	45		91	18	3	7	47	10	5	27	56	.305
2017	Boise		NO RW	A-	6	30	30	4		7	3	0	1	5	0	1	0	9	.233
2018	Lancaster		CALL	A+	100	417	378	59		124	25	1	13	62	4	3	34	77	.328
All Levels (4 Seasons)					236	1006	896	138		273	62	5	23	132	17	16	90	184	.305

Rockies to Play Triple-A Isotopes in Albuquerque at End of Spring Training
Tracy Ringolsby | InsidetheSeams.com | Nov. 1, 2018

The Albuquerque Isotopes and Colorado Rockies announced the two clubs will meet in an exhibition game on Monday, March 25 at 1:05 p.m. at Isotopes Park. It will mark the first meeting between the two clubs since the Rockies and Isotopes affiliation began in 2015.

"We are thrilled to welcome the Colorado Rockies to Albuquerque in 2019," said Isotopes Vice President / General Manager John Traub. "We are very appreciative of Dick Monfort, Jeff Bridich, Zach Wilson and the entire Rockies organization in working with us to make this game happen for our fans."

"We are extremely excited to be able to bring Rockies baseball directly to our friends and fans in Albuquerque," said Rockies General Manager Jeff Bridich. "Our partnership with Ken Young, John Traub and the rest of the Isotopes has been strong since we linked up in 2015. Coming to Albuquerque next March 25th will be a great way to help us kick off our 2019 season."

The 2019 season will mark the fifth year of the Rockies and Isotopes partnership. During the past four seasons, Isotopes fans have gotten the chance to see Rockies stars the likes of Trevor Story, Jon Gray, Tyler Anderson, Chad Bettis, Kyle Freeland, German Marquez, Ryan McMahon and David Dahl pass through Albuquerque.

Eighteen members of the 2018 Rockies playoff roster once played for the Isotopes.

The exhibition game will mark the Rockies first trip to Albuquerque since the 2010 exhibition game against the Seattle Mariners. Isotopes Park also hosted Major League teams when the Florida Marlins played the Isotopes in 2004 and when the Texas Rangers met both the Arizona Diamondbacks and Rockies in 2005.

Colorado Rockies announce their plans on where they will end their Spring Training
Noah Yingling | RoxPile.com | Nov. 1, 2018

In a press conference on Thursday afternoon, the Colorado Rockies announced that they will travel to Albuquerque, New Mexico, the home of their Triple-A affiliate, the Albuquerque Isotopes, to finish their spring training slate of games in 2019. The Colorado Rockies held a press conference this afternoon in Albuquerque and in that press conference, the team announced that they will conclude their spring training games at the end of March by playing their Triple-A affiliate, the Albuquerque Isotopes, in Albuquerque for one game on Monday, March 25 at Isotopes Park before starting the regular season later that week.

Albuquerque Isotopes

@ABQTopes

Rockies to play exhibition game at Isotopes Park

[https://www.pscp.tv/w/bqtgMjFYsIFrR2tScIhRTHi8MWRqeFhPZ2JhTVZKWhUBPi4jdluaxhTAnWM_vPXDnHP8m_uKxLTi4Q3UY6OO ...](https://www.pscp.tv/w/bqtgMjFYsIFrR2tScIhRTHi8MWRqeFhPZ2JhTVZKWhUBPi4jdluaxhTAnWM_vPXDnHP8m_uKxLTi4Q3UY6OO...)

The Rockies also announced a few weeks ago that on March 9 and 10 that they will stray away from Arizona during Spring Training and travel to Monterrey, Mexico to take on the Arizona Diamondbacks.

While many teams usually finish their Spring Training games against other MLB teams in MLB stadiums (or in former MLB stadiums in the case of the Toronto Blue Jays who have finished their spring slate in Montreal's Olympic Stadium for the past number of seasons), a few other MLB teams have a tradition of doing this as well.

The St. Louis Cardinals are, perhaps, best known for finishing their spring training slate by playing their Triple-A team in Memphis to end the season. Additionally, other teams like the Baltimore Orioles (Triple-A Norfolk, Virginia), the Kansas City Royals (Triple-A Omaha, Nebraska), the Chicago White Sox (Triple-A Charlotte, North Carolina), and the San Diego Padres (Triple-A El Paso, Texas) all did this to end Spring Training in 2018.

Albuquerque is roughly the half way point between Coors Field and Salt River Fields at Talking Stick in Scottsdale, Arizona (the spring training home of the Rockies) as it is between 400 and 450 miles away from each stadium.

However, for the Rockies, they will not continue on to Denver after the game in Albuquerque as they will start their 2019 season in the state of Florida, the home of the Grapefruit League in Spring Training, as they will open the season in Miami against the Marlins on Thursday, March 28 in the opener of a four game set.

NEXT: Speaking of the Marlins, could the Rockies and Marlins become trade partners?

They will then head on to Tampa to face the Rays in a 3-game interleave series before having their home opener on April 5 against their arch rival, the back-to-back National League Champion Los Angeles Dodgers in a three game set.

Colorado Rockies: Trevor Story 2018 Players Choice Awards Finalist
Ben Macaluso | RoxPile.com | Oct. 31, 2018

Trevor Story undoubtedly had a great 2018 season. That lead might be the most duh worthy sentence by far on this entire site. But if you consider Story's career this time last year, that outcome would have been hard to predict. With a .239 BA and nearly 200 strikeouts in 2017, the roar for Brendan Rodgers to come up way too early was deafening.

Story only responded to that with having one of the best seasons at shortstop in Colorado Rockies history. Rightfully so, he was voted by the players as a 2018 Players Choice Awards Outstanding Player NL finalist. This is how he stacked up against fellow finalists Christian Yelich and Javy Baez.

#MLBPA

@MLB_PLAYERS

The National League @MLB_Players have voted! Your 2018 Players Choice Awards Outstanding Player NL finalists are @javy23baez @Tstory2 and @ChristianYelich! #PlayersChoiceAwards2018 Winners announced Nov. 27th!

Vote on who you think takes it: <http://bit.ly/PCA2018OutstandingPlayerFinalists> ...

Let's start first with the middle-infielder comparison Baez. Story batted .291 with a 5.6 WAR a total nearly higher than his first two years combined. Baez is a more similar comparison this season playing shortstop out of necessity as Addison Russell was suspended for conduct off the field. Baez has a better overall defensive WAR at 1.7 while Story sits at .9. Both made their first All-Star appearance in 2018 and both are a huge factor why their clubs played each other in the Wild Card Playoff game. Story had more hits in that game than Baez, while the Cubs utility infielder might be remembered more for his hugs. Baez hit .290 this season with 34 homers and 111 RBIs compared to Story's 37 and 108 RBIs. You could say Baez is the more versatile infielder playing more time at second while in a coin toss Story could take the better hitter award. This player comparison is close.

Christian Yelich is where the comparison gets a little more difficult. The Milwaukee Brewers acquired Yelich from the Marlins in the offseason as part of Jeter's clean sweep in Miami. Boy was it a steal. Yelich single handedly may have pushed this team into the playoffs when they were so close in 2017 just behind the Rockies in the second Wild Card spot. Yelich's second-half numbers sent him over the edge as the best player in the National League in 2018. He hit .367 with 25 of his 36 homers in the second half.

He won the first NL Batting title in Brewers history while also making his first appearance in the All-Star game along with the other finalist for this award. The Cubs were leading this division for 75 days until the Brewers beat them in game 163. Yelich played all of the outfield positions spending the most time in left but it's fair to say that Story wins with his glove. He wasn't the most potent batter in the playoffs but he's the reason they won the NL Central and an integral part piece to a club that was one game away from the World Series. Yelich is the likely NL MVP but really one of the few that might be better than Story in 2018.

Every game, Story is making the Troy Tulowitzki trade seem more and more like a no-brainer. Especially with the salary space saved. Not to mention Story hit the most homers ever for a Rockies shortstop this year. He had arguably one of the best seasons at shortstop in Rockies history and will be at the position for some time to come. Will it be enough to earn him the honor of the 2018 Players Choice Award? Who do you got?

Colorado Rockies: A recurring name in trade rumors may be on the move soon
Noah Yingling | RoxPile.com | Nov. 1, 2018

On MLB Network Radio on Tuesday, Jeff Berry, the co-head of the agency CAA Sports, spoke with Scott Braun and Jon Morosi about his client, All-Star catcher JT Realmuto, and his comments are stirring up the market for Realmuto and a team that may (and should be) calling the Miami Marlins about him is the Colorado Rockies.

On Tuesday afternoon, Jeff Berry, the agent of JT Realmuto, was on MLB Network Radio on Sirius XM. It has been widely speculated that Realmuto could be a hot commodity on the trade market this offseason but Barry seems to be trying to fuel the fire for the Marlins to trade him when he spoke to Scott Braun and Jon Morosi.

He said that he thinks that Realmuto “will definitely be wearing a different uniform by the start of spring training.” He also said that his client will not sign a contract extension with the Marlins.

Jon Morosi

@jonmorosi

NEWS: Jeff Berry, agent with @CAA_Baseball, on @MLBNetworkRadio just now regarding client J.T. Realmuto: “I think he will definitely be wearing a different uniform by the start of spring training.” Berry made clear that Realmuto won’t sign an extension with #Marlins. @MLB

There are a multitude of teams that would like to improve their catching situation, particularly offensively as, quite frankly, the catching position is one of, if not, the weakest positions in the entire sport right now.

For Realmuto, he is one of the best catchers in the entire sport.

In the past three seasons, he has averaged 134 games a season with 16 home runs, 62 RBI, a .286/.338/.454 slash line, and a 118 OPS+.

Defensively, by most fielding metrics, he is in the middle of the road in framing metrics or below average (particularly in Defensive Runs Saved).

The thing that is most intriguing about him is his contract situation. He is arbitration eligible for the next two offseasons (including this offseason) and he won't be a free agent until the 2021 season so the Rockies would have some control of him for the next few years.

As you may remember, the Rockies offense was, quite honestly, pathetic for much of the season (their 90 OPS+ was 23rd in baseball) and their catchers struggled offensively all season as Chris Iannetta's OPS+ was 85, Tony Wolters' was 48, Tom Murphy's was 58, and Drew Butera's was 86 while he was with the Rockies. None of the four hit above .226. Last year, Realmuto hit .277.

Catching is yet another thing that the Rockies might (and realistically, need to) address this offseason. However, there are plenty of other things that are on their list but it will be interesting to see if there are any reports of the Rockies talking to the Marlins in the coming days and weeks about Realmuto.