

# THE SPORTIER

## MLB Offseason's First Big Moves

In the offseason, Major League general managers look for players with good potential and players that fit the team. The problem is, though, that the players that they are looking at are really expensive or you would have to give up a lot. But sometimes, they aren't as much as you would expect, like when the New York Mets picked up Yoenis Cespedes at the trade deadline for 2 minor league players.

The first big acquisition of the year was by the Los Angeles Angels, who traded with the Atlanta Braves. The Angles were able to pick up 2 time Gold Glove award winner Andrelton Simmons and catcher Jose Briceno for SS Eric Aybar, LHP Sean Newcomb, RHP Chris Ellis and \$2.5 Million.

Another big move is the Boston Red Sox acquiring closer Craig Kimbrel for OF Manuel Margot, INF Javier Guerra, INF Carlos Asuaje and LHP Logan Allen.

Another pick up was the Minnesota Twins trading OF Aaron Hicks to the New York Yankees for C John Ryan Murphy.

And some other players accepted qualifying offers from their teams, offers for \$15.8 Million, but for only one year. Those players were Colby Rasumus from the Houston Astros, who was a quality outfielder who would have done well in free agency, pitcher Brett Anderson from the Los Angeles Dodgers and catcher Mike Wieters from the Baltimore Orioles.

The offseason has just started, so keep an eye out for some more good transactions.

Source: [ESPN](#)

## Who Will Lead It All?

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The NFL regular season is more than halfway over, so now we can look at where the teams stand and what will happen to them.

First, we start in the AFC East, where the New England Patriots hold a very strong lead over the Buffalo Bills and New York Jets, who are both 5-4. **Prediction: The Patriots make the playoffs, the Jets and Bills make the wild card.**

Now we take a look at the AFC North, where the Cincinnati Bengals are also holding a strong lead, this lead over the Pittsburgh Steelers. Since the Steelers don't have Le'Veon Bell for the rest of the year, the Steelers need a very good performance from their backup DeAngelo Williams and a strong passing game from Ben Roethlisberger. **Prediction: The Bengals make the playoffs, Steelers make the wild card.**

Next, we take a look at the AFC South, which looks like a very bad division. The best team is the Indianapolis Colts, who are 4-5 going into today's game, and in second is the Houston Texans, at 3-5 going into today. **Prediction: The Colts make the playoffs.**

The final division in the AFC is the AFC West. The Denver Broncos are the leaders in this division, and they are not undefeated, but still one of the best teams in the league. Behind them is the Oakland Raiders, who haven't been good for a while, but did okay this year. **Prediction: The Broncos make the playoffs, Raiders make the wild card.**

In the NFC, we start with the NFC East. This year, the New York Giants are on top of their division, slightly leading the Philadelphia Eagles which looks like could turn out into a very intense race. **Prediction: The Giants make the playoffs, the Eagles make the wild card.**

Now we head to the NFC North, where there is a tight race between the Minnesota Vikings and the Green Bay Packers. The Vikings have a harder schedule left, so they may have a hard time trying to pull off a division win. **Prediction: The Packers make the playoffs, the Vikings make the wild card.**

Next, we go to the NFC South. The Carolina Panthers lead the division over the Atlanta Falcons, and it looks like it will stay like that because both teams have mostly equal schedules except that both teams face each other twice. **Prediction: The Panthers make the playoffs, Falcons make the wild card.**

The last division is the NFC West, where the Arizona Cardinals lead the St. Louis Rams. The Cardinals look like they won't lose to a team like the Rams. **Prediction: The Cardinals make the playoffs, Rams make the wild card.**

Source: [ESPN](#)