

# CHICAGO BLACK SOX



*"If you are coming to play ball at **The Black Diamond**, you better bring your sticks"*

## 2024 Instructions

The new era of the PCL is here and the Sox had to pick last in each of the first 7 rounds of the draft. Having to replenish a pitching staff they were unable to participate in the free agent hitter market, but some late defensive adds should provide some needed depth in the field. A very average starting staff will be bolstered by the true strength of the pitching which is in the bullpen.

## Overview

How will we win? With speed and thunder. Run, then run some more. 7 guys are legitimate base stealing threats and 7 more are 14+ base runners. The bats have plenty of hitting and power from both the left and right side of the plate. With an aggressive starting lineup that does not always field well on the left side of the infield it will be key to get the defensive subs in the game with an established lead in the second half of a contest. Please note the defensive switches in the instructions. Most importantly, have fun!



## Starting Line-ups

Lineup 1, vs. L		Lineup 2, vs. L		Lineup 3, vs. R		Lineup 4, vs. R		Lineup 5, vs. R	
8	Friedl*	8	Friedl*	6	Turner	DH	Turner	6	Turner
5	Vierling	9	Acuna	7	Carroll*	8	Carroll*	7	Carroll*
9	Acuna	7	Carroll*	9	Acuna	9	Acuna	9	Acuna
3	Flores	5	Flores	3	Olson*	3	Olson*	3	Olson*
DH	Bell+	2	Sanchez	DH	Flores	5	Flores	DH	Stewart*
2	Sanchez	3	Olson*	8	Friedl*	4	Madrigal	5	Flores
7	Carroll*	DH	Bell+	5	Madrigal	7	Vierling/Stewart*	8	Friedl*
4	Edman+	4	Edman+	4	Edman+	2	Maile/Sanchez	4	Edman+
6	Neto	6	Neto	2	Maile/Sanchez	6	Neto	2	Maile/Sanchez
<b>Versus:</b> Garrett, Matz, Sandoval, Fried, Suarez, Abbott, Kershaw, and Sanchez.		<b>Versus:</b> Williamson, Strahm, Steele, Montgomery, Luzardo, Quintana, and Snell.		<b>Versus:</b> Irvin, Wacha, Peralta, Gallen, Oviedo, Scherzer, Walker, Gilbert, Kelly, Josiah Gray, Cobb, Clevinger, Nola, and Jon Gray.		<b>Versus:</b> Cabrera, Perez, Hendricks, Bobby Miller, Morton, Burnes, Musgrove, Lorenzen, Walker, Assad, Stroman, Junis, Senga, Gonsolin and Webb.		<b>Versus:</b> Lugo, Kirby, Lopez, Strider, Wheeler, Keller, Beck, Castillo, Gausman, Silseth, Woodruff, Elder, Martinez, and Bryce Miller.	

## Notes on the Lineups:

- In all lineups versus the RHP (3, 4 and 5) **Sanchez** starts where diamond HR's are 8 or more for the RHH; **Maile** starts everywhere else.
- In Lineup 4 **Stewart** starts for **Vierling** at **CDS, PBC, OBB, and UTP**.



### **MANAGING THE DEFENSE**

This is more important than the platoon strategies. **After Chicago bats in the 6<sup>th</sup>**, with any lead replace Flores at third with Madrigal (Edman to second) and replace Turner with Neto at short. Some common sense please – if Flores made the last out or close to it, Neto goes in his spot... After we bat in the 7<sup>th</sup> with any lead, Friedl to CF in Lineup 4.

### **WHEN YOUR LEFTY STARTER EXITS THE GAME**

No real changes to the position players. At the next at-bat for the DH use COMPARE to see if Turner or Stewart are a better option than Bell. Olson can stay as the big bat threat off the bench for late pinch-hitting, and/or best defense with a lead.

### **WHEN YOUR RIGHTY STARTER EXITS THE GAME (for a lefty reliever)**

Before the 6<sup>th</sup>: No changes.

During the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>: As above the DH spot will have you use COMPARE to see if Bell is a better option than Turner (lineup 4) or Stewart (lineup 5). In any case Stewart should not face a lefty reliever. If trailing, pinch-hit for Madrigal (lineups 3 and 4) with best option and move Vierling to 3B (Flores to 2B in lineup 4).

After the 7<sup>th</sup>: Best Defense if tied or leading; go to best pinch-hit options if trailing.

### **Injury and Player Usage**

- Catcher: **Sanchez** and **Maile**. **Sanchez** in small parks and against the LHP; **Maile** in large parks.
- 1B: **Olson** and he never comes out when he starts. **Flores** backs him up.
- 2B: **Edman** and he never comes out. **Madrigal** or **Flores** are the injury backups.
- SS: **Turner** and he comes out per defense instructions, above. **Edman** is the injury backup vs RHP (Madrigal to 2B); **Neto** remains the Best Defense option after Chicago bats in the 6<sup>th</sup>, per the above.
- 3B: **Flores**, **Vierling**, and **Madrigal** share the work. See Defense Management, above.
- OF: **Acuna**, **Carroll**, and **Friedl** rarely come out when starting. **Vierling** and **Stewart** handle the corner injury replacements (**Carroll** to CF). **Edman** is also an option if we get more than one down with injury.
- DH: Many options here. **Bell** is the primary choice – **Turner**, **Stewart**, and **Flores** all take their turn.

### **Lower at-bat guys will be managed in the Home Series**

- **Maile** only starts on the road so his 179 AB's should not present an issue.
  - **Stewart** will have about 20 starts on the road for his 160 AB's. He will be monitored in the home series.
- No other guys will have enough starts to challenge their at-bat limit(s).

### **Defense Matrix – Best Defense in Bold – Look to use as early as the 7<sup>th</sup> inning with any lead.**

C	1B	2B	SS	3B	LF	CF	RF
<b>Sanchez</b>	<b>Olson</b>	<b>Edman</b>	<b>Neto</b>	<b>Madrigal</b>	<b>Carroll</b>	<b>Friedl</b>	<b>Acuna</b>
Maile	Flores	Madrigal	Edman	Vierling	Vierling	Carroll	Vierling
		Flores	Turner		Edman	Edman	Stewart

### **Pinch Running**

- Pinch Running: Not used much unless a potential tying run on base late in the game is represented by one of cement shoes guys (**Bell**, **Flores**, **Sanchez** or **Maile**). Anyone else will do.

## Game Strategies

- Base Stealing: A big, big part of our game. **Turner, Carroll, Acuna, Edman, Friedl, Neto** and **Madrigal** all have the green light. Steal 2<sup>nd</sup> at 70%; Steal third at 75% with one out. Do not try for the lead with the low percentage guys (3-6%. Et al).
- Who to H&R and when: Maybe **Vierling** or **Madrigal** against a tough pitcher match-up, but that is about it.
- Sacrifice: Nope.
- Squeeze Plays: Nope.
- Scoring: Same as your team. Run home at 65%; 50% with two outs. If trailing by three runs or more after the 6<sup>th</sup>, take a more conservative run to home with less than two outs.
- Trailers: To second 55% and above, but to third at 65%. Send the lower percentage trailer only with two outs and we are down by a run or tied, from the 7th inning on.
- Throwing Guidelines: Cut the throw off from the outfield early in the game unless runner is heading home with a safe chance at less than 55%. Let the throw through even if the runner is as high as 65% with two outs and the 8th or 9th hitter is due up.
- Defense: Always get the sure out on Defense Option plays, unless runner represents the go-ahead run and his safe chance is 35% or less. Same with the trailing runners.
- Intentional Walks: Use your best judgment. I do **not** like being too aggressive with this. Only late in the game with a way, way better matchup on deck.

## THE STARTING ROTATION

### LOOK HERE!

YOUR GAMES (to play at your park)				My Games (The Black Diamond)				
Opp.	Game #1	Game #2	Game #3	Game #1	Game #2	Game #3		
BAG	Alcantara	Miley	Bassitt	Bassitt	Alcantara	Greene		
PBC	Greene	Miley	Manaea	Greene	Miley	Manaea		
SBM	Alcantara	Bassitt	Greene	Bassitt	Alcantara	Greene		
SCT	Alcantara	Miley	Bassitt	Greene	Miley	Manaea		
CDS	Alcantara	Miley	Greene	Greene	Miley	Manaea		
OBB	Greene	Miley	Manaea	Greene	Miley	Manaea		
LVB	Alcantara	Bassitt	Manaea	Bassitt	Miley	Manaea		
UTP	Alcantara	Miley	Greene	Bassitt	Miley	Manaea		
CHI	[REDACTED]			[REDACTED]				
AGN	Alcantara	Bassitt	Greene	Bassitt	Alcantara	Manaea		
STL	Alcantara	Miley	Manaea	Miley	Alcantara	Manaea		
VBS	Alcantara	Bassitt	Manaea	Bassitt	Alcantara	Manaea		
Divisional Games – AWAY GAMES				Divisional Games – Home Games				
Opp.	Game #1	Game #2	Game #3	Game #4	Game #1	Game #2	Game #3	Game #4
AGN	Bassitt	Miley	Alcantara	Greene	Miley	Alcantara	Greene	Bassitt
STL	Greene	Miley	Alcantara	Manaea	Miley	Alcantara	Greene	Manaea
VBS	Bassitt	Miley	Alcantara	Greene	Miley	Alcantara	Greene	Bassitt

# Starts: Alcantara (20), Miley (20), Greene (18), Manaea (16), Bassitt (16).

## The Starting Pitching

The goal is for the starters to keep it close and last 5-6 innings, Alcantara into the 7<sup>th</sup>. You cannot get a “good matchup” with every pitcher in every game in a series so note the best two starters are going in games 1 and 2 in every 3-game series (1,2 and 3 in the 4-game sets). You can be somewhat patient with those starters as long as we can stay within 3-4 runs early. That said you can use a much quicker hook in the last game of the series as needed – even turning it into a bullpen game, availability of the pen depending.

### Starting Pitcher Overview

### HR's 1-7 are Large Parks; 8-20 are Small Parks

<b>Sandy Alcantara (7)</b> 185 IP	#1 Starter with 20 starts. Balanced card and can go the distance. He always comes out when tired. Completes games with leads of 4 runs or more.
<b>Wade Miley (6)</b> 120 IP	#2 Starter with 20 starts. He is limited to 6 innings per start but can start the 7 <sup>th</sup> if facing a lefty to lead-off the inning, but a quick hook once he faces a righty hitter. Always comes out when tired.
<b>Hunter Greene (6)</b> 112 IP	#3 Starter with 18 starts. He is limited to 6 Innings per start. Always comes out when tired. Can be patient against lefty heavy lineups but a quicker hook on righty heavy lineups, especially in small parks.
<b>Sean Manaea (6)</b> 118 IP	16 starts – only 6 on the road and always the last game of the series. Unless he is “cruising” you can pull him after 5. Always out when tired. Take no risks on leaving him in if a close game.
<b>Chris Bassitt (7)</b> 200 IP	16 starts. Always out when tired. If pitching in the last game of the series I am feeling a tougher match-up where it is the same instruction as Manaea. His innings total allows me to say he completes games with leads of 4 runs or more.

### Managing the Bullpen

Sox have 354 innings of bullpen available, but the roles of each are defined below. They are all very stingy with the HR so the batter matchups rule the decisions – not the ballpark. With any early exits we will lean on Cruz and Lawrence to keep us in the game – and use the set-up guys as discussed, even if trailing, as our offensive firepower might bring the game back to us. With any lead in the last 3 innings use the “back-end 4” almost in any combination to get us to the finish line.

The Three Batter Minimum: Consider only for the set-up guys as listed, below (2 out of 3, 3 out of 5).

### Relief Pitcher Overview

<b>Kevin Ginkel</b> Closer	The closer and will start the 9 <sup>th</sup> in all save situations. He can come into the game in the 8 <sup>th</sup> for a 4 or 5 out save. 2-inning saves are okay, but I prefer using preferred matchups in the 8 <sup>th</sup> if those better ones are available.
<b>Ryan Brasier</b> Set-up	Key set-up and an alternate closer. Tough against the RHH but can face either right or left, but usually against the 2 out of 3, or 3 out of 5 as righties. Pitches in the 7 <sup>th</sup> and/or 8 <sup>th</sup> inning in concert with the other two set-up guys.
<b>Jose Alvarado</b> Set-up	Key set-up and an alternate closer. Tough against the LHH but can face either right or left, but usually against the 2 out of 3, or 3 out of 5 as lefties. Pitches in the 7 <sup>th</sup> and/or 8 <sup>th</sup> inning in concert with the other two set-up guys. Alvarado can close the last couple of outs in the 9 <sup>th</sup> against the lefty bombers in CDS, PBC or OBB.
<b>Trevor May</b> Set-up against the LHH	Set-up and the right-handed lefty. Tougher against the LHH but can face either right or left, but usually against the 2 out of 3, or 3 out of 5 as lefties. Pitches in the 7 <sup>th</sup> and/or 8 <sup>th</sup> inning in concert with the other two set-up guys.

<b>Fernando Cruz</b> Early and Middle	Cruz and Lawrence are the first guys in when you have to replace the starter prior to the 7 <sup>th</sup> inning. Cruz can go for 2-3 innings and use him against the right-handed leaning lineups. You can use both in a game if a really early exit, but never both in back-to-back games unless it is the last game of the series. Cruz can also fill Brasier's role if he is unavailable in the last game of a series.
<b>Justin Lawrence</b> Early and Middle	Lawrence and Cruz are the first guys in when you have to replace the starter prior to the 7 <sup>th</sup> inning. Lawrence can go for 2-3 innings and use him against the left-handed leaning lineups. You can use both in a game if a really early exit, but never both in back-to-back games unless it is the last game of the series. He also serves as the mop-up guy in blowout situations.

*Paradise Canyon League Championship Banners*

