

# Winter Meetings Preview – National League

## Winter Meetings 2019

### 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Cincinnati Reds

The Reds always seem to have strong pitching, which is a requirement to being competitive in the National League, and this year's group is no exception. They have the most balanced squad in the league, and many options at the WM's.

#### **Winter Meetings Activity:**

Cinci has 9 draft picks – two 1<sup>st</sup>, two 2<sup>nd</sup>'s, three 3<sup>rd</sup>'s, and two 4<sup>th</sup>'s. They need a starting pitcher, an outfielder, and more bullpen. They also have \$165 to spend on free agents.

**What Marchie could do:** With 4 picks in the top 27 selections, Cinci can pretty much fill all its holes.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Los Angeles Dodgers

The Dodgers go into the season aiming for a 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive World Series appearance, but it will be difficult as they have several holes to fill, with not a lot of resources to make it happen. LA will have to be creative. LA has a nice base with its starting pitching, and a few strong hitters around the diamond.

#### **Winter Meetings Activity:**

LA has 2 draft picks – a bottom 2<sup>nd</sup> and a high 3<sup>rd</sup>. They also have about \$50 in salary space.

**What could Mike G do:** The needs here include bullpen and outfield help. Between the draft picks and free agency, those holes will need to be filled.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Philadelphia Phillies

This team has had the talent to take things to the next level for a couple of years now. This past year, what did them in was a woeful offense against southpaws. The good news is that both their pitching and their hitting continue getting stronger and stronger. Any positive activity at the WM's can only help.

#### **Winter Meetings Activity:**

They have 3 draft picks, a 1<sup>st</sup>, a 2<sup>nd</sup>, and a 4<sup>th</sup>. They also have about \$110 in salary.

**What Neil could do:** The biggest need is a 1<sup>st</sup> baseman – do they use their 1<sup>st</sup> rounder to get one, or rely on free agency? They also need another OF'er, and could use some upgrading at 3<sup>rd</sup> base, unless they wind up moving Wil Myers there.

## **4<sup>th</sup> Place: Montreal Expos**

This has been a slow rebuild, yet the Expos have managed to remain playoff competitive as they slowly go from a decent lineup to a great one. Additions over the past few years like Lindor, Bragman, and Pham have helped.

### **Winter Meetings Activity:**

They have 4 draft picks, all of their own. They also have about \$105 in salary.

**What Mike T could do:** They are set in the OF, other than depth, and are set around the infield, although if they could get rid of Justin Bour and Kendrys Morales and replace them with a real 1<sup>st</sup> baseman, that could boost them into the top 3, although they do need to find starting pitching, something they should be able to do with their resources.

## **5<sup>th</sup> Place: San Francisco Giants**

San Fran narrowly missed the post-season in 2018, but looks poised to get to the promised land in 2019. Their strength is their hitting, although they could use an outfielder after losing CarGo to free agency. Their pitching remains mediocre and in need of several upgrades.

### **Winter Meetings Activity:**

They have 4 draft picks, all of their own. They also have about \$65 in salary.

**What Menas could do:** He will be able to strengthen either his rotation or his bullpen through the draft. Free agency doesn't offer much in the way of pitching help, so this team is pretty much locked into the 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> place spots in the Standings.

## **6<sup>th</sup> Place: Pittsburgh Pirates**

What a difference a year makes. This team has been hit hard by injuries and free agency. Going into the Meetings, they need a catcher, infield help, and a center fielder, plus several starting pitchers and a ton of depth for their bullpen.

### **Winter Meetings Activity:**

They have 2 draft picks, a 1<sup>st</sup>, and a 2<sup>nd</sup>. They also have about \$95 in salary.

**What Pete could do:** This team found a way to be good in 2018 by filling in positional gaps with recycled veterans like Carlos Gomez and Cameron Maybin. They could try that avenue again, but this time there are far too many holes to fill. The likeliest strategy is probably a rebuild/retool, as it seems like a waste to use their only 2 draft picks on players who can help now, rather than future-oriented players.

## **7<sup>th</sup> Place: San Diego Padres**

Unless the Padres once again find success with a mediocre to downright bad starting rotation, this team is in for a rough season. Their pitching staff as a whole is in tatters, and they need a whole lot of help in the infield.

### **Winter Meetings Activity:**

They have 4 draft picks, a 1<sup>st</sup>, a 3<sup>rd</sup>, and two 4<sup>th</sup>'s. They also have about \$45 in salary.

**What Cam could do:** Cam has never been one to believe in rebuilding, so look for him to still try to put together a playoff caliber lineup. That would start with plugging his hole at 2<sup>nd</sup> base with Gleyber Torres, and finding himself some starting pitching.

## **8<sup>th</sup> Place: Arizona Diamondbacks**

The Snakes have several large holes to fill – starting pitching, bullpen, a catcher, a SS. Their GM's need for signing free agents year after year, whether the team is ready for those types of lavish additions or not, has hurt this team.

### **Winter Meetings Activity:**

They have 5 draft picks, a 1<sup>st</sup>, a 2<sup>nd</sup>, two 3<sup>rd</sup>'s, and a 4<sup>th</sup>. They also have about \$50 in salary.

**What Allan could do:** With Arizona possessing some fine young talent that is coming off injury-riddled seasons, like Gary Sanchez and Cory Seager, the wise move would be to use these Meetings to add young talent, in hopes that the team will be a contender come the 2020 season.

### **Projected Standings (based on anticipated winter meetings moves)**

<b>1. Cincinnati</b>	<b>48-29</b>	<b>---</b>
<b>2. Los Angeles</b>	<b>45-32</b>	<b>3.0</b>
<b>3. Philadelphia</b>	<b>44-33</b>	<b>4.0</b>
<b>4. Montreal</b>	<b>41-36</b>	<b>7.0</b>
<b>5. San Francisco</b>	<b>39-38</b>	<b>9.0</b>
<b>6. Pittsburgh</b>	<b>37-40</b>	<b>11.0</b>
<b>7. San Diego</b>	<b>30-47</b>	<b>18.0</b>
<b>8. Arizona</b>	<b>25-54</b>	<b>23.0</b>