

# Reloaded East teams enter stretch

Sports

BY KYLE STACK  
Special to amNewYork

The MLB trade deadline is an ideal opportunity for the rich to take from the poor. The rich are typically represented by the top AL East and NL East teams, who often acquire impact players on struggling teams. However, some traditional buyers took a different approach this season. Here are the major deals that affected New York's teams and their division rivals.

## AMERICAN LEAGUE EAST

### Yankees

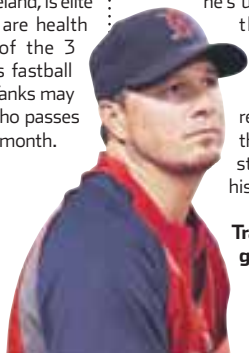
#### No trades.

Questions remain about whether a franchise famous for making trade-deadline deals to strengthen its roster for the stretch run made the right move by doing nothing. The Yankees' offense is set: It ranks second in the majors in runs scored (587) and in OPS (.791). Yet the starting pitching is lackluster; any World Series contender depending heavily on right-handers **Freddy Garcia** and **Bartolo Colon** may not actually be a contender. Interest in Dodgers righty **Hiroki Kuroda** was stalled by his reluctance to approve a trade. Rockies RHP **Ubaldo Jimenez**, who landed with Cleveland, is elite at times, but there are health concerns because of the 3 mph he's lost on his fastball from 2009-10. The Yanks may still target a player who passes through waivers this month.



Trade-deadline grade:

D



### Boston Red Sox

#### Traded five prospects to Dodgers, Mariners for LHP Erik Bedard.

In a complicated three-team deal, the Red Sox acquired injury-prone Bedard. The southpaw's 91 1/3 innings this year represent the most he's pitched since 2008 due to shoulder troubles. He has proven to be effective when healthy; this was demonstrated during a two-month stretch from April 27-June 27 when he went 4-2 with a 1.77 ERA and 0.89 WHIP. Of course, he landed on the disabled list June 29 with a sprained left knee. He has since returned, but he's unreliable enough that he won't make up for the loss of RHP **Clay Buchholz**, reportedly out for the season with a stress fracture in his lower back.



Trade-deadline grade:

C+

### Philadelphia Phillies

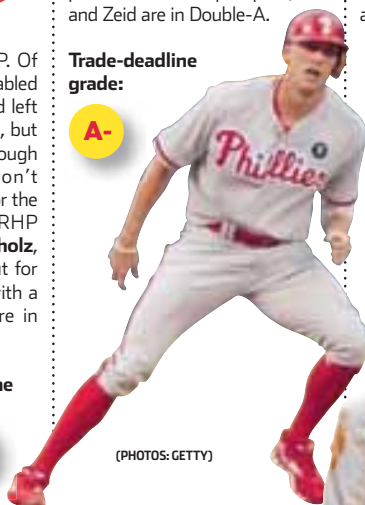
#### Traded RHP Jarred Cosart, OF Jonathan Singleton, RHP Josh Zeid and a player to be named to Astros for OF Hunter Pence, \$2 million.

The Phillies did what a playoff contender with a deep farm system should do: trade prospects, some of whom likely won't maximize their talent, for a player of known value. Pence is a very good offensive player and a poor defensive player; his right-handed hitting to balance the Phillies' lefty-dominated lineup is what they value in this trade. Only 28, Pence will likely remain a fringe All-Star player rather than become a superstar. Singleton (Baseball America's pre-2011 No. 39 prospect) is in High Class A, while Cosart (Baseball America's pre-2011 No. 70 prospect) and Zeid are in Double-A.



Trade-deadline grade:

A-



### Atlanta Braves

#### Traded OF Jordan Schafer, LHP Brett Oberholtzer, RHP Paul Clemens and RHP Juan Abreu to Astros for OF Michael Bourn.

I miscalculated Bourn's destination when, in amNewYork's July 22 edition, I suggested that his ideal landing spot was with the Brewers. The Braves desired Bourn's speed, on-base percentage and defense in the worst of ways. Yet they didn't give up too much; Schafer has a .310 on-base percentage in 414 career plate appearances. None of the pitchers were considered among the top four pitching prospects in the Braves' farm system. Conversely, Bourn, 28, is a two-time Gold Glove winner, owns an impressive .351 on-base percentage since 2009, and has swiped 213 bases in 257 career stolen-base attempts.



Trade-deadline grade:

A



### Mets

#### Traded OF Carlos Beltran, \$4 million to Giants for RHP Zack Wheeler; traded RHP Francisco Rodriguez, \$5.9 million to Brewers for two players to be named.

Rodriguez had a \$17.5 million vesting option that would become guaranteed if he finished 55 games in 2011. Beltran is an impending free agent who can't be offered arbitration. The Mets weren't in a position to see either scenario play out, so the least they could do was use those players to enrich their farm system. That was accomplished by acquiring Wheeler — rated by Baseball America prior to this season as the 55th-best prospect in the minors.



Trade-deadline grade:

B+

## MLB STANDINGS

### AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST	W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	68	41	.624	—
YANKEES	67	42	.615	1
Tampa Bay	58	52	.527	10 1/2
Toronto	56	55	.505	13
Baltimore	43	64	.402	24

### NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST	W	L	PCT	GB
Philadelphia	71	39	.645	—
Atlanta	64	48	.571	8
Florida	55	55	.500	16
METS	55	55	.500	16
Washington	53	57	.482	18

Late games not included

### Yankees (67-42) at Boston (68-41)\*

Fri.: RHP Bartolo Colon (8-6, 3.30) vs. LHP Jon Lester (11-4, 3.17), 7 p.m. **YES**

Sat.: CC Sabathia (16-5, 2.55) vs. RHP John Lackey (9-8, 6.23), 4 p.m. **FOX**

Sun.: RHP Freddy Garcia (10-7, 3.22) vs. RHP Josh Beckett (9-4, 2.20), 8 p.m. **ESPN**

\* Late game vs. Cleveland

### Atlanta (64-48) at Mets (55-55)

Fri.: RHP Tim Hudson (10-7, 3.31) vs. RHP R.A. Dickey (5-9, 3.77), 7 p.m. **SNY**

Sat.: RHP Tommy Hanson (11-6, 3.20) vs. LHP Jonathon Niese (10-8, 3.94), 7 p.m. **SNY**

Sun.: RHP Jair Jurrjens (12-4, 2.63) vs. RHP Mike Pelfrey (6-9, 4.48), 1 p.m. **TBS**



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