

2011 Chicago Cubs

The Chicago Cubs are coming off a really disappointing season stuffed with shedding and disappointment. From the frustrations with ace pitcher Carlos Zambrano to the issues with Lou Piniella and his retirement. It was an all round undesirable 2011 period with the Cubs. I know personally, that I had higher hopes for the Cubs heading into last year. They have been picked to be one particular of top rated teams in the Nationwide League and ended up one of the apparent favorites to compete for a division title. The Cubs ended up underachieving and place up final results that ended up way beneath what was anticipated. Carlos Zambrano was eliminated from the starting rotation and even put in some time in the bullpen to support fix some of his concerns. Slugging third baseman Aramis Ramirez had an terrible year and almost certainly the worst year of his skilled occupation which hurt the Cubs a great deal, simply because he is by significantly one of the greatest operate producers for the Cubs. Essential players like Ryan Theriot, Derek Lee, and Mike Fontenot have been traded during the latter component of the year, which was also extremely disappointing. There were just also many issues and too many holes to fill for the Cubs to even have a possibility to contend very last 12 months which was extremely disheartening with all the expectations that have been put in entrance of them just before the 2010 period commenced.

During the off period, Basic Manager Jim Hendry, manufactured some really excellent moves that could help the Chicago Cubs get again on track for 2011. Jim Hendry made about 4 crucial moves that I feel will support this ball club in the extended operate. The very first shift Hendry produced was the signing of slugging first basemen Carlos Pena from the Tampa Bay Rays. Carlos Pena is a left handed first basemen that will ideally fill the void of Derek Lee who was traded to the Atlanta Braves final year. Derek Lee was a fan favored but if Pena can come in and generate, supporters will welcome in Carlos Pena with open arms. Carlos Pena signed a a single year deal which is a intelligent shift currently being that if he does not do what the Cubs count on from him, they will not have to owe him any cash following this season. The 2nd very best shift that Hendry produced was the signing of ace pitcher Matt Garza. Matt Garza was also a Tampa Bay Ray very last 12 months and had a extremely respectable yr profitable 15 video games in the very tough American League East division. Matt Garza signed a three yr deal and is nevertheless a extremely youthful pitcher who is entering his prime so this was a very intelligent transfer. Matt Garza should fit into the top of the Cubs rotation really nicely. I assume fantastic issues from the two individuals free of charge agents from Tampa Bay. The 3rd very best transfer that Hendry produced was the signing of set up man, and previous Chicago Cub wonderful, Kerry Wood. This move manufactured a lot of feeling for the two sides. Kerry Wooden needed to be back again in Chicago and the Chicago Cubs required some a lot more depth in the bullpen. Kerry Wood had some very good appearances with the New York Yankees towards the end of final year, so he proved that he can even now pitch at a extremely higher degree. Wooden will be a great man to have in the bullpen for numerous good reasons. For 1, he will ideally be able to highly contribute on the field and secondly he will be a leader in the bullpen that has some young men in it. The younger guys in the bullpen will definitely be looking at Kerry Wooden for suggestions and mentoring. It is extremely great to get Kerry Wood again in a Cubs uniform and I think he will be ready to do great issues for the Cubs this season. The fourth and ultimate major transfer that I think Hendry made was the signing of Cubs closer Carlos Marmol. This was a huge offer to get accomplished prior to Spring Instruction camp broke into action in middle February. This is simple a deal that had to get done. Carlos Marmol is by significantly the very best arm that the Chicago Cubs have on their roster. He is nearly unstoppable when he requires the mound in the ninth inning. Last period he set the major league record for strikeouts per nine innings which is really amazing. Marmol will be a important participant on the roster this period. If the Cubs can maintain a lead until the ninth inning, I think Marmol will complete the job and get the win for the Cubs. He is a key component to the good results of this team heading into the 2011

season.

Properly it is quite clear that Jim Hendry has completed a rather excellent work this off period with some of the acquisitions and signings, so we at minimum know that Hendry ideas on competing this 12 months and in no way is trying to rebuild the ball club. An additional signing that will have a large affect for 2011 Chicago Cubs is rookie manager Mike Quade. When Lou Piniella retired previous year, everybody was expecting the Cubs to go out and find a "large title" candidate out on the marketplace. Individuals even speculated that previous Cubs second basemen and Hall of Famer Ryne Sandberg would fill the void left by Lou Piniella. Following interim supervisor, Mike Quade, posted a quite very good report down the stretch at the finish of the time, so it was a quite easy selection for Jim Hendry to stick with Quade as the full time manager for the Cubs. You could actually inform that the players responded to Mike Quade when he took more than for Piniella. It is nearly like they wished him to get the task so they played their hearts out for him and we can only hope the players will even now perform tough for him heading into this time. The 1 factor that some people may possibly not know about Quade is that he grew up a Cubs admirer and in fact grew up in the Chicago location so he has a whole lot of familiarity with the Chicago Cubs and all the stigmas that surround the crew. Hes no stranger to the "curses" or all the losing that has been likely on more than the years. I think he is the perfect man for job due to the fact of all the passion he provides to the game of baseball. He would like guys to operate challenging and to do their greatest to get greater day in and day out. He respects his gamers tremendously and I feel like they will shell out him again with that very same respect. Quade wishes this group to win a globe series title far more than anybody in the Cubs group, so with all the enthusiasm and tough perform he provides to the table, I can't see why the Cubs will not likely come out and perform excellent baseball for him for the entire 2011 year.

Total, the Chicago Cubs are not favored to do a lot this season but perhaps that is in which they belong. I believe the beneath dog mentality that manager Mike Quade will instill in his players will assist this club perform extremely excellent baseball and hopefully earn them a spot in the article year. With the old faces coming back again and the new faces coming in, it will be a new staff with a new frame of mind. No matter what anybody says, when the 2011 regular time starts, the Chicago Cubs will be all set to play ball, and I assume them to contend with any group in Key League Baseball

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