

Diamondbacks to steal Manny Machado from the Dodgers' grasp?

By Anthony Quach



As we approach the 2018 MLB Trade Deadline, the Arizona Diamondbacks find themselves in first place of the NL West, just 1.5 games above the second place Los Angeles. In order for the Diamondbacks to be legit contenders over the Dodgers, they need to add a big bat to their lineup to counter against the hard-hitting Dodgers, especially with the hot streak that they've been on. Not too far behind are the San Francisco Giants and the Colorado Rockies who are 3.5 and 5 games behind the D-Backs respectively.

The Orioles are last place in the Major Leagues, with a 24-60 record, so it should come as no surprise that they will be selling at the trade deadline. Manny Machado may only be a three-month rental for the Diamondbacks, but it will

definitely give them the boost they need to go deep into the playoffs. Adding Machado would give the Diamondbacks more depth in the infield, specifically at shortstop and maybe a little bit of third base, to go along with Chris Owings, Nick Ahmed and Ketel Marte. Machado would be a huge boost to Arizona's lineup offensively, currently sporting a .311 batting average, with 21 home runs and 59 RBIs, slugging .565 and OBP of .379. It would be interesting to see how well Machado adjusts to Chase Stadium and whether he can continue to boost his offensive numbers and have the All-Star year he is having. Getting Machado would definitely solidify the D-Backs' lineup, and it would prevent other teams such as the Dodgers and the Cubs who have also been rumored to have interest in the 3-time All Star. In terms of offense, the Diamondbacks are ranked second to last in the MLB, with a team batting average of .229. Getting a huge bat like Machado will definitely be a huge offensive boost, as Machado will easily be the new team leader in batting, average and runs batted in.

As for what it would take for the Diamondbacks to land the All-Star shortstop, the Orioles' asking price for a player of Machado's caliber would be high, and one has to wonder how much the D-backs are willing to give up for a rental player such as Machado. The return package for the O's may feature three or four of the Diamondbacks' top prospects in their farm system. Perhaps their #1 prospect RHP Jon Duplantier (89th overall), or maybe even a guy like SS Jasson Domingue, who is the #3 overall prospect in the D-Backs' organization. With the Diamondbacks' star players like AJ Pollock and Patrick Corbin set to become free agents after this season, and Paul Goldschmidt who will become a free agent after the 2019 season. If the Diamondbacks

want to make a push for the playoffs, the time to act is now, and getting Manny Machado will definitely spark a fire in the D-Backs's clubhouse and boost their chances of going deep into the postseason. Not only that but getting Machado will throw a wrench in the Dodgers playoffs plans. With only a few more weeks left before the July 31st non-waiver trade deadline, there's definitely going to be a lot of buzz surrounding Machado and where he will end up. The Diamondbacks have the pieces necessary to land him, but who knows how everything will unfold in the end.

-Anthony Quach