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THE GREAT BRONX SELLOFF

Six deals in six days turn a lost season into a teardown — and hand the next Yankees team its blueprint

By Nick Ferraro | Pinstripe Dispatch Staff Writer

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THE PHONES DIDN'T STOP RINGING

There is a particular kind of quiet that settles over Yankee Stadium when a season is already decided in July. It is not the quiet of a team resting before October. It is the quiet of a front office counting the days until it can start over. By August 3, 18.5 games out of first place and buried in last, that quiet finally broke — into six trades in a single frantic stretch that stripped the roster down to its studs and rebuilt it, piece by piece, for 2027 and beyond.

By the time the deadline horn sounded, the biggest name on the roster in June — Jazz Chisholm Jr., a 25-homer, 32-steal walk-year rental having arguably his best season as a professional — was gone. So was Cody Bellinger, still productive but staring down a \$30 million final-year price tag nobody in the Bronx wanted to pay for a team that isn't contending. So was David Bednar, the incumbent closer, and so, a day earlier, was a struggling ace-in-waiting shipped out for the very starter who's now expected to stabilize the rotation he left behind. If you blinked, you missed a Yankees team quietly becoming a different Yankees team.

THE HEADLINE SELL

Chisholm went to Washington, owner of the best record in the National League, in exchange for outfielder Dylan Crews and first base/catching prospect Ethan Petry — with a throw-in from the Yankees' own system, reliever prospect Kyle Carr, closing the gap. Crews, just 24, carries the highest ceiling of any position player now wearing pinstripes (a 66 overall projection by the organization's own internal grading) and was in the everyday lineup within days, albeit in the middle of a bracing 0-for-23 welcome to New York. Bellinger, meanwhile, brought back a jolt of energy nobody expected: Kristian Campbell, a 24-year-old second baseman from Boston's system who stepped into the lineup and promptly went on a tear, a 1.090 OPS through his first week that has the front office daring to dream, plus outfield prospect Justin Gonzales for organizational depth.

"No shiny objects" has been the mantra in the front office since the injuries piled up in June, and both deals honored it — real players for real players, no top-tier farmhands sacrificed on either side of the ledger.

THE BULLPEN GOES THROUGH THE SHREDDER

If the lineup got a face-lift, the bullpen got demolished and rebuilt from the studs up. Camilo Doval left first, bundled into the deal that brought back Zac Gallen from Arizona days before the deadline officially opened. Bednar followed him out the door a few days later, dealt to Houston — the Astros eating 90 percent of the return piece's remaining salary just to make the underlying baseball work — in exchange for lefty Bennett Sousa and a third-round pick. Sousa needed exactly one week to make the deal look like a heist: zero earned runs allowed and a save already banked. With both incumbents gone, Brent Headrick inherited the ninth inning exactly as the front office had planned for weeks, Fernando

Cruz slotting in right behind him.

A separate, smaller trade sent Carson Coleman to Arizona — the Diamondbacks' second visit to the Bronx trade desk that week — for 37-year-old right-hander Merrill Kelly, who has already made two starts and looks every bit the low-drama innings-eater a patchwork rotation needed. And in the sixth and final deal of the window, a capped-out, redundant Jose Caballero — blocked at shortstop and with nowhere left to grow — was flipped to Seattle for a pair of 24-year-old arms, Teddy McGraw and Harrison Kreiling, both now working out at Double-A Somerset.

"Every deal we made was about buying next year's team a head start on being good again — not squeezing one more half-hearted win out of this one."

WHAT DIDN'T GET DONE

Not everything on the table got done, and that restraint is its own kind of story. A deal that would have sent outfield prospect Yanquiel Fernandez to Arizona for closer A.J. Puk was discussed and ultimately passed on — Fernandez, the front office decided, is a better chip to save for a bigger deal down the road than to spend on a rental reliever, offseason free-agency reunion or not. A separate proposal that would have sent Luis Gil to Houston fell apart when the Astros wanted more than the Yankees were willing to give up for a hard-throwing arm still working through his control issues; Gil has since been optioned to Triple-A to keep working on exactly that.

THE VIEW FROM HERE

The Yankees are 53-71 as of this writing, dead last in the American League East and, frankly, at peace with it. But they are also, improbably, the hottest team in their own division over the last two weeks — 9-3, for whatever that's worth to a club with nothing left to play for. What matters more is who's now in the building: Crews and Petry, Campbell and Gonzales, Sousa, Kelly, McGraw and Kreiling, all added in a single week without touching a single one of the untouchable names still developing on the farm. Add in Cade Smith getting his first big-league look in the rotation and Spencer Jones quietly having the best stretch of his season in center field, and a picture starts to form of what 2027 might actually look like once Cole, Rodón, and Stanton are healthy again.

The selling window technically stays open through the Winter Meetings — Ryan McMahon and Carlos Rodón both still carry no-trade clauses that could theoretically be waived for the right third act — but for now, the roster the front office wanted after the deadline is the roster it has. The rest of August is just about finding out what it's actually made of.

BY THE NUMBERS — THE SELLOFF, IN FULL		
OUT	IN	PARTNER
Jazz Chisholm Jr. (2B)	Dylan Crews, Ethan Petry, +sent Kyle Carr	Washington
Cody Bellinger (LF)	Kristian Campbell, Justin Gonzales, +8th-rd pick	Boston
David Bednar (CL)	Bennett Sousa, +3rd-rd pick (90% retained)	Houston
Camilo Doval, Ryan Weathers, Thatcher Hurd	Zac Gallen	Arizona
Carson Coleman	Merrill Kelly	Arizona
Jose Caballero (SS)	Teddy McGraw, Harrison Kreiling	Seattle

