

### **RH Cristian Javier**

Regular Season: 3.55/ERA/4.43 FIP/4.51 xERA/ 1.18 WHIP

FIP vs Righties: 3.80

FIP vs Lefties: 5.43

Postseason: 7.2 IP/1.73 FIP/0.00 ERA/0.91 WHIP

Pitch Types: 4 Seam- 59.4% Slider- 27% Curveball- 7.8% Changeup- 5.9%

Javier has become the Astros multi inning specialist this postseason and has been phenomenal at doing it. Javier is a fastball/slider pitcher with excellent movement on his pitches. He sits 92-95 on his fastball and has good vertical movement on it. His slider isn't the hard slider you see in today's game. It's a sweeping slider at 80-83 MPH with not much vertical drop but very good horizontal movement. The slider was his best pitch this year; he only allowed .155 wOBA this year. His whiff rate on the slider was 49% and put hitters away with it over 30% of the time. He is susceptible to walks and has this postseason (12.5% regular season, 12.9% postseason) but his K rate went from 30.7% (very good) to a crazy 41.9%. He has been known to give up hard contact but was able to limit damage this year (17th percentile in hard hit rate, 16th percentile in barrels given up). Weird thing about Javier is the chase rate. He didn't get guys to chase out the zone (14th percentile in chase rate) but 83rd percentile in whiff rate. With the movement he gets he can still get swinging strikes in the zone. He has a really good curveball too (94th percentile in spin rate) but doesn't throw it much. Doesn't get ahead quickly (48% first pitch strike) so he can get behind (hence the higher walk rate). He loves to throw the slider into lefties and away from righties with a super low batting average allowed low and to the right side of the plate (catcher's view). The key with Javier is to jump on the fastball. He gave up a .391 xwOBA on his four seamer this year. He really struggled against lefties this year which benefits Atlanta if he goes multiple innings.

### **LH Brooks Raley**

Regular Season: 4.78 ERA/3.92 ERA/3.27 xERA/1.20 WHIP

Postseason: 3.1 IP/10.80 ERA/3.17 FIP/2.40 WHIP

FIP vs Righties: 5.12

FIP vs Lefties: 0.87

Pitch Types: Cutter- 32.1% Slider- 29% Sinker- 14.9% Curveball- 12.8% 4 Seam-7.3% Change-3.8%

Meet the very rare six pitch reliever! Raley is a lefty specialist that uses his cutter and slider to get left handed batters to chase outside the zone. He has incredibly low exit velocities, doing a great job limiting left handers and their power. He does not throw hard (maybe 93 max, 91 on his four seam) and his cutter is 87-88 usually. The slider generates a lot of swing and misses (48.1%) and he will throw a loopy curveball to keep hitters off balanced. Both the slider and curveball has incredibly elite horizontal movement and he can bury the sinker down. He was in the 92th

percentile in K rate so he can put guys away. He has excellent spin on his four seamer but the low velocity doesn't fool anyone (.354 wOBA). The cutter was actually his worst pitch despite the fact it was his most used pitch. Hitters had a .389 wOBA against him on the cutter, and hit .304 batting average against it. He will get misses out of the zone, he was in the 70th percentile for chase rate. The key is to hit anything inside he throws. He tries to avoid it against lefties but if he makes a mistake you can do damage. If righties face him, sit slider and look to pull. He was bad against righties this year. You will most likely see him against the Rosario/Freeman top of the order when the righties for Houston start.

### **RH Kendall Graveman**

Regular Season: 1.77 ERA/3.65 xERA/3.19 FIP/0.98 WHIP

Postseason: 7 IP/1.29 ERA/3.60 FIP/1.29 WHIP

FIP vs Righties: 2.35

FIP vs Lefties: 4.28

Pitch Types: Sinker- 62.9% Slider- 17.7% 4 Seam- 8.6% Changeup- 6.9% Curveball- 3.9%

Graveman was acquired in a trade from Seattle in July and is mainly their 7th or 8th inning guy. Graveman is a ground ball specialist, using his hard sinker and slider to get ground balls (54.2% groundball rate in 2021). His ability to limit hard contact as a reliever makes him very dangerous. He finished very high in hard hit rate (75th percentile), barrel percentage (86th percentile) and xSLG (88th percentile). He uses his sinker to throw into righties and away from lefties, getting a ton of batters to roll the ball over. He then uses his slider into the left handed batter's box to keep hitters at bay. He will walk guys and can miss with his sinker arm side (9% BB rate/39th percentile in walk rate) so it's important to be patient. He will get ahead quickly (59% first strike rate) but does not get a lot of swing and misses (45th percentile in whiff rate). If you swing at his sinker you will make contact (15.7% whiff rate). He uses his slider as his put away pitch (43.8% whiff rate/32% put away). The key with his sinker is if you go after to not get cocky and try to pull it. He only allowed three homers this year. Use the opposite field because it's very hard to pull the sinker (96.6 MPH average). His slider is only thrown in the zone 30% of the time but has such high spin it's really hard to lay off but if you lay off you can draw walks.

### **RH Phil Maton**

Regular Season: 4.73 ERA/3.62 xERA/3.50 FIP/1.44 WHIP

Postseason: 6.2 IP/1.35 ERA/3.77 FIP/0.45 WHIP

FIP vs Righties: 3.20

FIP vs Lefties: 3.83

Pitch Types: 4 Seam- 49.1% Curveball- 24.4% Slider- 19.7% Cutter- 7.2%

Another midseason acquisition, Maton is a weird one. He is an elite strikeout reliever (81th percentile in K rate) and makes guys miss as well as anyone (95th percentile in whiff rate, 84th

percentile in chase rate) but he only averages 91.5 MPH on his four seamer. He has a great spin rate on it that makes it very deceiving (94th percentile) but it is curveball that does the job. He has elite spin and horizontal movement on it and guys can't hit it, with a 40.1% whiff rate on it. He uses his curveball more against lefties and then uses his sliders against righties. His slider also has excellent movement and spin rate but is prone to giving up hard contact on it (.542 slugging against). He doesn't get a lot of ground balls (39.7%) so you can get the ball in the air. What kills him is the walks. He had a 10.8% walk rate in 2021 and when guys get on, 29.5% of runners score on him. Lay off the slider/curve, let him make mistakes and sit fastball. He gave up four homers on his fastball this year.

### **RH Yimi Garcia**

Regular Season: 4.21 ERA/4.48 xERA/3.88 FIP/1.16 WHIP

Postseason: 5 IP/12.60 ERA/7.77 FIP/2.00 WHIP

FIP vs. Righties: 2.93

FIP vs. Lefties: 4.93

Pitch Types: 4 Seam-39.3% Slider- 29.8% Curveball- 18.2% Changeup- 6.4% Sinker- 6.3%

Garcia has really struggled since being acquired from Houston so his usage will most likely be limited, only being used in non-close games or if the starters have to come out early. Garcia throws a hard four seam fastball (96 MPH average) and has a high spin rate on his curve and slider. But he leaves his pitches over the plate too much. He doesn't get a lot of swing and misses (56th percentile tile) but he will make guys chase (65th percentile) and does a good job not walking guys for a reliever (60th percentile). The problem is he gives up a lot of hard contact (35th percentile in average exit velocity and 30th percentile in barrels) and is prone to the home run ball (8th in total, 6 off his fastball). His slider gets 28% of whiffs so he can make guys miss on that and make batters chase it as well. He does not do well with guys on base. 40% of runners that get on base score so if you get a guy or two on him or he comes in with inherited runners you have a good chance.

### **RH Ryne Stanek**

Regular Season: 3.42 ERA/4.03 xERA/4.11 FIP/1.21 WHIP

Postseason: 6.2 IP/1.35 ERA/3.77 FIP/0.65 WHIP

FIP vs Righties: 2.92

FIP vs Lefties: 6.21

Pitch Types: 4 Seam- 59.7% Split- 21.5% Slider- 18.5%

A righty specialist, you will see Stanek with Riley/Duvall and their spots coming up. As you can tell by the FIP, he is very good against right handed pitchers using his four seam fastball (97.6 MPH average) to get ahead early and then his slider (.185 wOBA) to put guys away. He has a split finger to combat lefties and was really good with it as well (.164 wOBA). He doesn't give

up a lot of contact (87th percentile in whiff rate, 81st in K rate) but two things. He doesn't get guys to chase out of the zone (18th percentile in chase rate) and he will give up hard contact (6th percentile in average exit velocity and 18th barrel rate). He loves using his fastball high but he can be wild (8th percentile in walk rate). If you are patient with him and force him to throw fastballs, this is where you can attack him. If he is locating his fastball then he is damn near unhittable but if his control is off you can tee off on him. His slider gets a lot of downward movement on it so try and lay off on it, especially if you are a righty or you'll put in the dirt. Low ground ball rate overall since he uses a lot of high fastballs. Left men on base 73% of the time so not bad with runners on. High leg kick so he will be a guy to try and steal on.

### **LH Blake Taylor**

Regular Season: 3.16 ERA/3.42 xERA/4.62 FIP/1.41 WHIP

Postseason: 2.2 IP/0.00 ERA/1.29 FIP/1.13 WHIP

FIP vs Righties: 6.08

FIP vs Lefties: 2.92

Pitch Types: Four Seam- 72.5% Slider- 27.5%

Taylor did not pitch in the White Sox series because of how right handed they are but with Eddie, Freddie and Joc (what a fun sitcom name) he is expected to be on the roster. He is a two pitch thrower and I would expect him to come in with two outs to get one of the lefties. He doesn't have a high chase rate (22.6%). His K rate is low and he walks guys (11.7%). But he doesn't give up hard contact, giving up an average 84.5 exit velocity. He has good spin rate on the fastball without the velocity and that is his put away pitch. His slider does have good vertical movement but was his weaker pitch this year (.374 wOBA against sliders compared to .302 wOBA on the fastball). Very good at stranding runners (79.5%). His fastball averages around 93.1 MPH and he gets guys to swing at it up. If he leaves the ball down you can do some damage on it.

### **RH Jake Odorizzi**

Regular Season: 4.21 ERA/4.63 xERA/4.48 FIP/1.25 WHIP

Postseason: 4IP/9.00 ERA/7.17 FIP/1.75 WHIP

FIP vs Righties: 4.64

FIP vs Lefties: 4.25

Pitch Types: 4 Seam- 55.2% Split- 22% Cutter- 10% Slider- 7.6% Curveball- 5.2%

I wouldn't expect Odorizzi unless it is a blowout and the Astros need to eat innings. He was a starter but got hurt in August and the Astros really haven't used him since except in some mop up duty against Boston (1 appearance). Odorizzi isn't a stuff guy, instead using his control to draw weak contact. He doesn't strike guys out and make guys miss (28th percentile in K rate, 35th percentile in BB rate, 19th percentile in whiff rate) and was just above average in walk rate

(53rd percentile). He has in the past avoided hard contact but this year he gave up a good amount with 22nd percentile in barrels and 29th percentile in average exit velocity. He does get a lot of rise on his fastball despite the low velo (92.2 MPH) and this helps get him outs. Lower ground ball rate. Gave up 18 homers in 107 innings this year. His secondary pitches are average at best, using his split the most. His slider/cutter gave up a lot of hard contact (slugging over .560 against both). He gets crushed in the lower part of the zone but does limit damage with the high fastball.

### **RH Ryan Pressly**

Regular Season: 2.25 ERA/2.57 xERA/2.06 FIP/0.97 WHIP

Postseason: 6 IP/1.50 ERA/2.67 FIP/1.00 WHIP

FIP vs Righties: 2.63

FIP vs Lefties: 1.38

Pitch Types: 4 Seam- 39.4% Slider- 35.8% Curveball- 24.5%

Pressly is the Astros best reliever and when you look at his percentile rankings it's all red. He has the best curveball spin in the majors and his fastball spin is in the 97th percentile. He does give up hard contact but he avoids barrels and gets batters to put the ball in the dirt with a 55.5% ground ball rate. His K rate was in the 94th percentile and his walk rate is in the 92nd percentile. This guy strikes dudes out and doesn't give free passes. His fastball can be hit a little bit (.312 wOBA) with an average velo of 95.4 MPH and only an 18.6% whiff rate. But his curveball is unhittable, with a 41% whiff rate and .188 wxOBA. He usually stays low in the zone...if he elevates his stuff can be more hittable. His slider is also incredibly good with a 38.7% whiff rate and .152 wOBA. He threw 342 sliders and didn't give up a home run on it this year. He throws the sliders to righties and then uses the curveball on lefties. Because of this he doesn't have extreme splits. For me, you have to sit fastball and hope he elevates it. If you get behind, you are in big trouble because his breaking balls are elite. And he normally doesn't get behind. He has a 70% first strike rate.