

Four Day Trading Spree moves more players than any in history of WARTIME-40.

In the span of just 4 days, Brad Ausmus, Tim Belcher, Craig Biggio, Joe Carter, Norm Charlton, Will Clark, David Cone, Andres Galarraga Luis Gonzalez, Charles Johnson, Randy Johnson, Jeff Kent, Alex Fernandez, Jack McDowell Paul Molitor, Mike Piazza, Reggie Sanders, Jason Schmidt Bernie Williams, and Mark Wohlers were all traded in Wartime-40. These are players who were All Star players, World Series champions, Gold Glove or Silver Slugger winners, and several are in the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY. No one knows exactly what this league shakeup will mean, but its ramifications could be felt for seasons to come. Many of the players traded this week will be looking for new teams next season, or in near future seasons, because when you have only 40 WAR to spend on a 35 man roster, it's hard to pay Randy Johnson 8, 9, or 10 WAR; pay Mike Piazza 8.7 WAR next season, pay Craig Biggio 9.7 WAR next season, and build a world series champion of 35 players. The best General Managers are able to work it out, but it takes great skill in team building to be able to pull it off. More importantly, if these teams do choose to hold that player for that WAR value, that means that other important and valuable players are now available to be taken by other organizations. After these trades, there are teams whose current roster will require them to cut more than 20 WAR value to be ready for the 1997 draft. That is the beauty of this league, every team has talent, and every team has to make tough decisions in order to determine what talent is most important to be kept. We still have 3 expansion spots open for our 1997 league season, and you can sign up for that league by going to <https://mikmot.com/wartime-40>; click on the blue JOIN button right at the top of the page, scroll down to see which organizations are still available, make your decision, and click the button to select your organization and join WARTIME-40. Our main focus in this week's newspaper is to break down the trades that occurred, and how those trades could have affected each of those teams, and help those who have never played in our league before understand some of its nuances.

The trading frenzy began with this 14 player blockbuster. A trade this massive with this much talent and this much future WAR means only 1 thing - There is no way all these players can be kept by an organization. Some interesting aspects of this swap.

(1) Charles Johnson for Mike Piazza. Mike Piazza is arguably the greatest offensive catcher of all time. Charles Johnson is quite possibly the best defensive catcher of the 1990s. The fact that these two players were traded gives a hint of the directions that these two organizations are attempting to go in their future WARTIME teams. (2) Luis Gonzalez for Reggie Sanders. Gonzalez has some dominant seasons in the 2000s, but Reggie Sanders has more power right now. Sanders is also a better defender now, but has a lot more strikeouts. Gonzalez is a lot more durable than Sanders, who is hurt most seasons for at least 30-40 games. (3) Tim Belcher and Norm Charlton for Chan Ho Park and Jason Schmidt. Belcher and Charlton are pitchers for the now. Both were very good in 1996 and offer Seattle a chance to win right now. Chan Ho Park and Jason Schmidt are players whose best pitching years are in the future. Both are more suited for relief roles presently, but both become starters in the future. Schmidt finished in the top 5 for the Cy Young award in 2003 and 2004, Chan Ho Park goes 75-49 from 1997 to 2001. But how long can a pitcher be kept who doesn't help you win right now? That is up to the GM and owners of each organization in WARTIME. It will be interesting to see how the Padres approach this problems as time goes forward in this league. As you will see, it did not take long for this 14-player record to be broken.

	6.3		6.3
San Diego Trades	WAR	Seattle Trades	WAR
Tim Belcher	4.8	Mike Piazza	5.4
Luis Gonzalez	2.6	Reggie Sanders	2.7
Charles Johnson	1.1	Chan Ho Park	1.5
Norm Charlton	0.8	Mike Mordecai	-0.2
Rafael Belliard	-0.9	Jason Schmidt	-0.4
Jim Abbott	-2.1	Chris Stynes	-0.4
		Denny Hocking	-0.7
		William VanLandingham	-1.6

	-0.3		-0.3
San Diego Trades	WAR	New York Yankees	WAR
Tony Clark	-0.3	Mark Loretta	-0.3

The second trade of the day was this one for one swap between the Yankees and Padres. This trade could have two completely different possibilities. The Yankees needed help at first base, as several members of their team that can play the position but have limitations in their card related to At-bats for the season of poor injury ratings that could sit them out in a single roll. The Padres needed help in their middle infield depth and the ability to hit right handed pitching with right handed batting. It is possible that this trade could easily have been a hole filling deal. However, Tony Clark has an .875 OPS average in seasons 1997-99, where he is playing over 150 games per season averaging 32 homers hitting above .280. That makes him a very good long term option, just like Mark Loretta. Loretta begins the prime of his career starting with next years 1997 season. While his seasons are a little bit up and down, he is a .300 hit over the next decade playing more than 150 games in several seasons all around the infield. The true motives for this trade will not be known until we see cut lists in 1997, 98, and beyond because both players have long keep options.

	-0.8		-0.6
San Diego Trades	WAR	Oakland Trades	WAR
Sandy Martinez	-0.4	Neifi Perez	-0.6
Chris Stynes	-0.4		

Trade 3 appeared to have two different goals. Oakland's weakest position this season is catcher, and acquiring Sandy Martinez

gives the A's another option to use at catcher to improve their offense at that position. The other players involved in this trade appear to be moves for the future. Chris Stynes and Neifi Perez are both young players who have very limited cards for this season, but have much better cards coming up in future seasons. Stynes had a 2.4 WAR season in 1997 with a .348/.394/.485 slash line. Neifi Perez has a 1.0 WAR 1997 playing 83 games with a .291/.333/.444 slash line and averages 159 gms in the next 3 seasons after that. It would be likely that each of these players will be kept for 1997 WARTIME. How long those players will be viable keepers for each organization becomes the real general manager question in this league. One of the great things about the WARTIME is a GM component that is super fun, because the teams are so similar in strength, every game you manages challenges your

A 19 player swap is the largest trade in the history of WARTIME-40. Add to that the names involved, and this is a blockbuster. For the Braves, they were able to get one of the top closers in 1996 in Wohlers, a star hitting center fielder in Bernie Williams, and a high quality catcher in Dan Wilson. Will Clark, Joey Cora, and Joe Carter are important pieces in their attempted turn around in this season. David Cone is a huge pickup for them for the next two seasons as he should become their #1 starting pitcher and offer a dominant 1-2 punch paired with Brad Radke who is just coming into his own. Alan Benes could become another important piece for next season as well. San

Diego added a star pitcher for this season in Alex Fernandez to pair with Kevin Brown and attempt to make their playoff run. Looking at their lineups after the trade, Ricky Otero, Paul Molitor, and Mariano Duncan all have every day starting roles, and Jeff Kent and Brad Ausmus are platoon players in this deal. For Atlanta, this trade appears to have more long term benefits than the trade does for San Diego. It will be impossible for the Padres to be able to keep all these players as several of them, Jeff Kent being the most obvious, have their average WAR ratings rise far above this season. That is not the case for the Braves. Several of these players stay at a similar WAR in the future, or slightly lower WAR while still retaining solid value, so the true benefits of this trade will be calculated differently and at different times in the future of WARTIME-40.

League Standings as of this Morning

	W	L	PCT	GB ▲
Chicago Cubs	25	11	.694	-
New York Yankees	25	14	.641	1.5
Toronto BlueJays	21	15	.583	4
St. Louis Cardinals	24	18	.571	4
Los Angeles Dodgers	20	16	.556	5
San Diego Padres	20	16	.556	5
Minnesota Twins	20	19	.513	6.5
Seattle Mariners	20	22	.476	8
Oakland A's	16	20	.444	9
Kansas City Royals	16	23	.410	10.5
New York Mets	12	27	.308	14.5
Atlanta Braves	9	27	.250	16

		15.1		15.1	
	San Diego Trades	WAR	Atlanta Trades	WAR	
CF/OF	Bernie Williams	4.0	Alex Fernandez	6.4	SP
C	Dan Wilson	3.4	Paul Molitor	3.7	1B
SP	David Cone	2.8	Mariano Duncan	2.7	2B/LF
1B	Will Clark	2.2	Jeff Kent	2.4	3B/2B
CL	Mark Wohlers	1.8	Dan Naulty	0.9	RP
SP	Erik Hanson	1.4	Brian Boehringer	0.5	RP
2B	Joey Cora	1.0	Brad Ausmus	0.4	C
2B	Mike Mordecai	-0.2	Ricky Otero	-0.3	LF/OF
LF/1B	Joe Carter	-0.5	Luis Polonia	-1.6	OF
RP	Alan Benes	-1.0			
	left over	0.2			

	7.3		7.3
Toronto Trades	WAR	Seattle Trades	WAR
Jack McDowell	1.4	Shawn Estes	1.1
Andres Galarraga	4.2	Randy Johnson	1.2
Fernando Vina	1.7	Craig Biggio	5.5
		JT Snow	-0.7
		Eddie Perez	0.2

This trade is so interesting because it is the one year in this stage of Randy Johnson's career that he is suited to be easily traded. From 1997 to 2002, Randy Johnson's WAR rating averaged 8.7 with 240 IP and 340 Ks. With numbers that large, it is unlikely to be able to work out a trade in a season, but an injury plagued year with a WAR of 1.2 and he is able to be moved. Two of the top batters in this era of baseball are also swapped in this trade. Craig Biggio is arguably the best second baseman of the 1990s, with dominant seasons averaging 6.9 WAR from 95 to 99. His best ever season is 1997, where he wins the gold glove and silver slugger awards racking up a 9.7 WAR rating and being an MVP finalist with 47 stolen bases and a slash line of .309/.415/.501 that year. Andres Galarraga was a top 20 finalist in MVP voting every year from 1993 through 1998 with an average OPS of .953. He hit .300 or better in 8 of his final 11 seasons, ending in 2004. He is a middle of the lineup superstar who makes any team better right now and in the future, assuming his WAR is kept in your organization. To have him traded for Craig Biggio may be the two largest superstars ever in the same trade in WARTIME-40. Additionally in this trade; each team appeared to get a hidden gem. Fernando Vina is not a player who is often thought of as a star, but he continually has fantastic DLB cards at a very low WAR value that make him one of the more dominant players in WARTIME-40. His consistently good defense and great baserunning add to his consistent on base ability. On the Toronto side they acquired JT Snow, who is a great defensive first baseman who has some high quality hitting cards that are "sneaky" good. He is usually strong against one side of the mound, and has a high on base percentage against the other, yet he never has a super high WAR number. Finding solid players with low WAR numbers is a key general manager quality to building great teams in WARTIME-40.

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Recently Completed Games

- Chicago Cubs 6 vs Atlanta Braves 2
- Chicago Cubs 3 vs Atlanta Braves 2
- Chicago Cubs 3 vs Atlanta Braves 2
- St. Louis Cardinals 8 vs Seattle Mariners 5
- St. Louis Cardinals 3 vs Seattle Mariners 2
- Seattle Mariners 5 at St. Louis Cardinals 4 (10 Inn)
- New York Yankees 14 at New York Mets 3
- New York Yankees 4 at New York Mets 3 (11 Inn)
- New York Yankees 3 at New York Mets 0
- Seattle Mariners 3 at Minnesota Twins 2
- Minnesota Twins 15 vs Seattle Mariners 6
- Minnesota Twins 8 vs Seattle Mariners 3
- St. Louis Cardinals 6 at Kansas City Royals 2
- St. Louis Cardinals 13 at Kansas City Royals 4
- St. Louis Cardinals 9 at Kansas City Royals 2
- St. Louis Cardinals 2 vs Los Angeles Dodgers 1
- Los Angeles Dodgers 5 at St. Louis Cardinals 1
- Los Angeles Dodgers 6 at St. Louis Cardinals 1
- Kansas City Royals 6 at Seattle Mariners 3
- Seattle Mariners 7 vs Kansas City Royals 5
- Kansas City Royals 8 at Seattle Mariners 2
- San Diego Padres 4 vs New York Mets 2
- San Diego Padres 7 vs New York Mets 2
- San Diego Padres 17 vs New York Mets 2
- Kansas City Royals 2 vs New York Mets 1
- New York Mets 12 at Kansas City Royals 0
- Kansas City Royals 4 vs New York Mets 2
- St. Louis Cardinals 10 vs Atlanta Braves 2
- St. Louis Cardinals 10 vs Atlanta Braves 6
- Atlanta Braves 5 at St. Louis Cardinals 1
- New York Yankees 10 vs Oakland A's 1
- New York Yankees 7 vs Oakland A's 1
- New York Yankees 8 vs Oakland A's 4
- Chicago Cubs 10 at New York Yankees 4
- New York Yankees 5 vs Chicago Cubs 1
- Chicago Cubs 14 at New York Yankees 2
- Seattle Mariners 4 vs Oakland A's 2
- Seattle Mariners 3 vs Oakland A's 2
- Oakland A's 4 at Seattle Mariners 1
- Seattle Mariners 11 at Atlanta Braves 4
- Seattle Mariners 5 at Atlanta Braves 2
- Seattle Mariners 4 at Atlanta Braves 3
- Kansas City Royals 9 at Oakland A's 5
- Oakland A's 15 vs Kansas City Royals 10
- Oakland A's 8 vs Kansas City Royals 7 (11 Inn)

League Leaders as of This Morning

Min 3.1 Plate Appearances per Team Game			Min 3.1 Plate Appearances per Team Game			Min 3.1 Plate Appearances per Team Game		
Batting Average	Team	AVG	On Base Percentage	Team	OBP	Slugging Percentage	Team	SLG
1. Tony Gwynn	SD	.390	1. Dave Nilsson	ChC	.469	1. Mark McGwire	MIN	.802
2. Dave Nilsson	ChC	.374	2. Mark McGwire	MIN	.466	2. Ken Caminiti	KC	.688
3. Edgar Renteria	ChC	.373	3. Bernie Williams	Atl	.451	3. Dean Palmer	Tor	.677
4. Paul Molitor	SD	.364	4. Barry Bonds	MIN	.448	4. Juan Gonzalez	LAD	.629
5. Roberto Alomar	ChC	.348	5. Gary Sheffield	ChC	.447	5. Gary Sheffield	ChC	.606
6. Walt Weiss	StL	.346	6. Ken Caminiti	KC	.442	6. Bernie Williams	Atl	.598
7. Ken Caminiti	KC	.340	7. Tony Gwynn	SD	.442	7. Ken Griffey Jr	Tor	.597
8. Bernie Williams	Atl	.333	8. Ellis Burks	KC	.438	8. Reggie Sanders	SD	.595
9. Ellis Burks	KC	.331	9. Walt Weiss	StL	.415	9. Barry Larkin	ChC	.589
10. Gary Sheffield	ChC	.328	10. Alex Rodriguez	Atl	.410	10. Albert Belle	KC	.582

Min 3.1 Plate Appearances per Team Game			Runs			Hits		
On Base + Slugging	Team	OPS	Team	R	Team	H		
1. Mark McGwire	MIN	1.267	1. Barry Bonds	MIN	37	1. Walt Weiss	StL	62
2. Ken Caminiti	KC	1.129	2. Eric Young	KC	37	2. Edgar Renteria	Oak	57
3. Gary Sheffield	ChC	1.053	3. Kenny Lofton	LAD	35	3. Paul Molitor	SD	55
4. Bernie Williams	Atl	1.049	4. Ken Caminiti	KC	34	4. Tony Gwynn	SD	55
5. Ellis Burks	KC	1.019	5. Ken Griffey Jr	Tor	34	5. Roberto Alomar	ChC	54
6. Dean Palmer	Tor	1.010	6. Ellis Burks	KC	32	6. Eric Young	KC	52
7. Ken Griffey Jr	Tor	.985	7. Mark McGwire	MIN	31	7. Ellis Burks	KC	49
8. Juan Gonzalez	LAD	.980	8. Walt Weiss	StL	31	8. Ken Caminiti	KC	49
9. Albert Belle	KC	.971	9. 3 Players Tied	30	9. Vinny Castilla	StL	49	
10. Barry Bonds	MIN	.965			10. Rusty Greer	NYY	49	

Doubles			Triples			Home Runs		
Team	D	Team	T	Team	HR			
1. Paul Molitor	SD	15	1. Marquis Grissom	NYY	5	1. Mark McGwire	MIN	18
2. Roberto Alomar	ChC	15	2. Paul Molitor	SD	4	2. Dean Palmer	Tor	14
3. Andres Galarraga	SEA	14	3. Jose Offerman	LAD	4	3. Jay Buhner	NYM	12
4. Ken Caminiti	KC	13	4. 13 Players Tied	3	4. Ken Griffey Jr	Tor	12	
5. Jim Eisenreich	MIN	12			5. Juan Gonzalez	LAD	12	
6. Vinny Castilla	StL	12			6. Barry Larkin	ChC	11	
7. Manny Ramirez	Tor	12			7. Ken Caminiti	KC	11	
8. Jeff Cirillo	NYY	12			8. 4 Players Tied	10		
9. 4 Players Tied	11							

Runs Batted In			Stolen Bases			Walks		
Team	RBI	Team	SB	Team	BB			
1. Mark McGwire	MIN	46	1. Kenny Lofton	LAD	34	1. Barry Bonds	MIN	42
2. Albert Belle	KC	42	2. Barry Bonds	MIN	19	2. Mark McGwire	MIN	37
3. Ellis Burks	KC	39	3. Chuck Knoblauch	Oak	17	3. Jeff Bagwell	Oak	34
4. Andres Galarraga	SEA	35	4. Brian McRae	NYY	16	4. Frank Thomas	SEA	30
5. Dante Bichette	StL	34	5. Eric Young	KC	16	5. Gary Sheffield	ChC	29
6. Gary Sheffield	ChC	34	6. Mark McLemore	NYY	14	6. Chili Davis	Oak	28
7. Ken Griffey Jr	Tor	34	7. Lance Johnson	NYM	14	7. Ken Caminiti	KC	27
8. Frank Thomas	SEA	34	8. Dante Bichette	StL	13	8. Ken Griffey Jr	Tor	25
9. Barry Larkin	ChC	33	9. Edgar Renteria	Oak	12	9. Bernie Williams	Atl	25
10. Juan Gonzalez	LAD	33	10. Jeff Frye	NYY	10	10. 3 Players Tied	24	

Min 1 IP per Team Game			Wins			Losses		
Earned Run Average	Team	ERA	Team	W	Team	L		
1. Steve Trachsel	Oak	1.98	1. Greg Maddux	LAD	7	1. Pedro Astacio	Atl	7
2. David Cone	SD	2.23	2. John Smoltz	StL	7	2. Doug Drabek	KC	6
3. Kevin Brown	SD	2.33	3. Kevin Brown	SD	6	3. Juan Guzman	NYM	6
4. Kevin Appier	Tor	2.55	4. Kevin Appier	Tor	6	4. Jack McDowell	SEA	5
5. Scott Sanders	NYY	2.66	5. Mike Mussina	KC	6	5. Tom Glavine	Atl	5
6. Greg Maddux	LAD	2.77	6. Pedro Martinez	StL	6	6. Charles Nagy	MIN	5
7. Jamie Moyer	NYM	3.02	7. 6 Players Tied	5	7. Alex Fernandez	SD	5	
8. Roger Clemens	StL	3.10			8. Dave Burba	Atl	5	
9. Pedro Martinez	StL	3.15			9. Frank Castillo	NYM	5	
10. Steve Avery	KC	3.33			10. 14 Players Tied	4		

Saves			Blown Saves			Innings Pitched		
Team	SV	Team	BISv	Team	IP			
1. Mark Wohlers	SD	9	1. Bob Patterson	NYM	3	1. John Smoltz	StL	82.0
2. Trevor Hoffman	StL	9	2. Mike Bielecki	SEA	2	2. Curt Schilling	MIN	76.2
3. Troy Percival	SEA	8	3. Jose Mesa	Oak	2	3. Greg Maddux	LAD	74.2
4. Jose Mesa	Oak	7	4. Mike Fetters	LAD	2	4. Roger Clemens	StL	72.2
5. Mike Fetters	LAD	7	5. Mariano Rivera	NYY	2	5. Pedro Martinez	StL	71.1
6. Mariano Rivera	NYY	7	6. Terry Adams	ChC	2	6. Ken Hill	MIN	70.1
7. Ricky Bottalico	KC	6	7. 26 Players Tied	1	7. Charles Nagy	MIN	69.2	
8. Robb Nen	ChC	5			8. Alex Fernandez	SD	67.1	
9. 3 Players Tied	3				9. Jeff Fassero	SEA	64.2	

Strikeouts			Min 1 IP per Team Game			Min 1 IP per Team Game		
Team	K	Team	Strikeouts Per 9 IP	Team	Walks Per 9 IP	Team	BB/9	
1. John Smoltz	StL	94	1. John Smoltz	StL	10.32	1. John Burkett	ChC	1.32
2. Roger Clemens	StL	73	2. Hideo Nomo	NYY	9.37	2. Jamie Moyer	NYM	1.61
3. Pedro Martinez	StL	72	3. Pedro Martinez	StL	9.08	3. John Smoltz	StL	1.65
4. Curt Schilling	MIN	67	4. Todd Stottlemyre	NYY	9.06	4. Greg Maddux	LAD	1.69
5. Jeff Fassero	SEA	63	5. Roger Clemens	StL	9.04	5. Steve Avery	KC	1.76
6. Hideo Nomo	NYY	59	6. Jeff Fassero	SEA	8.77	6. Charles Nagy	MIN	2.20
7. Alex Fernandez	SD	56	7. Darryl Kile	SEA	8.23	7. Ismael Valdes	NYY	2.26
8. Charles Nagy	MIN	53	8. Scott Sanders	NYY	8.18	8. Andy Ashby	SD	2.37
9. Mike Mussina	KC	52	9. Jack McDowell	SEA	8.01	9. Shane Reynolds	KC	2.40
10. Troy Percival	SEA	52	10. Al Leiter	Tor	7.99	10. Alex Fernandez	SD	2.41

Min 1 IP per Team Game			Min 1 IP per Team Game			Min 1 IP per Team Game		
Batting Average	Team	BA	WHIP	Team	WHIP	Home Runs Per 9 IP	Team	HR/9
1. Steve Trachsel	Oak	.176	1. Steve Trachsel	Oak	0.93	1. Greg Maddux	LAD	0.24
2. Scott Sanders	NYY	.184	2. Kevin Brown	SD	1.12	2. Ramon Martinez	LAD	0.37
3. Ramon Martinez	LAD	.220	3. John Smoltz	StL	1.12	3. Tom Glavine	Atl	0.46
4. Roger Clemens	StL	.221	4. Roger Clemens	StL	1.14	4. Kevin Brown	SD	0.47
5. Kevin Appier	Tor	.223	5. Kevin Appier	Tor	1.17	5. Andy Ashby	SD	0.47
6. Kevin Brown	SD	.225	6. Ismael Valdes	NYY	1.17	6. Jaime Navarro	ChC	0.58
7. David Cone	SD	.234	7. Jamie Moyer	NYM	1.19	7. Scott Sanders	NYY	0.61
8. Ismael Valdes	NYY	.236	8. John Burkett	ChC	1.22	8. Pedro Martinez	StL	0.63
9. John Smoltz	StL	.238	9. Charles Nagy	MIN	1.22	9. Al Leiter	Tor	0.64
10. Donovan Osborne	SEA	.245	10. Andy Ashby	SD	1.24	10. Andy Benes	Oak	0.70