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mets scorecard



brett the met!

By Kenny Burgess



The course of Brett Baty's offseason changed drastically when he got a call from the Mets front office informing him that Bo Bichette was coming to Queens to play third base.

Prior to that call, Baty had been under the impression that most of his playing time would be logged at third base—his natural position. Fresh off a promising breakout season in 2025, Baty felt confident in the role and was beginning to establish himself at the hot corner.

However, in the offseason, the Mets threw Baty a (figurative) curveball, as the organization underwent a drastic roster makeover. This shake-up included veterans like Bichette, Marcus Semien and Jorge Polanco joining the team. For Baty, this would mean most of his at-bats would be coming from first base and the outfield.

While Baty had never played an inning at first base and only one inning in the outfield at the Major League level, he was willing to make the shift to help the team reach their ultimate goal, sharing that "As a team we want to win a World Series, we're just focused on getting W's."

Baty was ready to do whatever was necessary to give his team the best chance of success—even if that meant



picking up two new positions. "They called me and told me we signed Bo and I immediately started doing first base and outfield stuff, but they also told me, hey these guys might need some days off here and there, so we still want you to have second and third base like in your tool belt," Baty recalled.

Baty was the Mets' first-round pick in 2019 out of Lake Travis High School in Austin, Texas, and the beginning of

his professional career was uneven. He spent the first two seasons of his professional career strictly in the Mets' farm system. However, his performance in the minors kept him steadily atop the organization's prospect rankings.

Baty impressed in the minors. Over 328 games, he slashed .283/.382/.507 good for an impressive .889 OPS. It looked like the Mets had found their next star.



Baty was called up to the Majors on August 17, 2022. In his first Major League at-bat, he launched a two-run homer. It seemed as though Baty was destined to seamlessly transition to the big leagues, but his path to becoming a Major League regular wasn't as easy as that.

Baty spent most of 2023 in the Majors, hitting only .212 over 108 games. This wasn't what was expected of the top prospect, and over the next two

seasons, he would be optioned back to the minor leagues four different times.

Baty was granted a shot at the Major League again in 2025, when he made the Mets' Opening Day roster. However, he was sent back down to the minors again less than a month into the season. He was recalled on May 5th, and upon his return, he finally had his long-awaited breakout.

Over his final 111 games of the season, Baty hit .263 with 17 home runs and 46 RBI, while posting a .772 OPS. Not only did Baty become an above-average hitter, but he also proved to be a valuable defender at both third base and second base.

The 2025 season was seen by many as a crucial turning point in Baty's young career, in what many viewed as a make-or-break year for the once highly touted prospect.

By the middle of the season, everyone was starting to take notice of the strides Baty had made, and he quickly became one of the Mets' more reliable presences on both sides of the ball.

Mets Manager Carlos Mendoza acknowledged the leaps Baty was taking, and after a standout game on July 21st, where he launched a solo homer and made impressive plays at both second and third base, he said, "He is having good results, offensively, defensively – not only at third, [but] at second base, just good to see him continue to develop here."

Mendoza recognizes that transitioning to the big leagues is no easy task and attributes Baty's breakthrough to his focus on team success rather than just individual achievement. "He continues to help us win baseball games," Mendoza said, adding that at the Major League level, "It's all about winning here. And, a lot of times, when you come from the minor leagues, it takes some time" to adjust to making the winning play every time....Like, 'hey, man, it's a team effort here,'" the skipper

continued. "If you get a guy over, if you make a play, you [might be] 0-for-4, but you're still contributing."

It seems that sentiment has stuck with Baty, and while he was happy with his results last season, he knows it all starts over again in 2026. "I mean, I think you can always draw some confidence from your success for sure, but at the end of the day, it's a new year, and you've got to go out and do it again," Baty shared.

Baty knows one of his most important skill sets is his versatility, which allows him to shift around the diamond. He prides himself on that ability, and when asked if he likes playing all over the field, Baty said he revels in the opportunity to help the team however he can, "Yeah, for sure I enjoy [playing various positions].. I think it shows that they respect the athleticism that I bring to the table. I feel like I've worked really hard on becoming more athletic, and being able to play four positions can really showcase that."

For Baty, playing all over the place meant putting in work: not only



to perfect the intricacies of each position, but to ensure his body can hold up over the duration of a Major League season.

In the offseason, Baty placed an emphasis on getting his body ready, and he feels as though he is in an optimal spot, sharing that, "I feel like this offseason, I got my body in a really good position...There's a lot of prep to be done to get your body ready for 150 games or 162 games all over the field."

While certain players could have been upset about losing their position to a big free-agent signing, Baty was

excited for the Mets to add an impact player and has been helping Bichette get comfortable at third base.

"I've talked to Bo a lot about third base, and he just wants to learn everything. That's really cool to see from a guy coming in who's changing positions. He just wants to be the best he can be at that position and learn as much as he can," Baty shared.

Baty isn't just excited about Bichette joining the team - he feels confident in all the new faces the organization has brought in and thinks this team is ready to win. "I'm super excited. We got a really great group of guys, and

it's gonna be a lot of fun," Baty said

Baty's evaluation of the team is spot-on, as the Mets are primed and expected to have a big season. The group as a whole expects nothing less than a championship. If the Mets are going to accomplish that goal, there is no question that Baty will be an integral piece to the puzzle. The only question that remains is what position he will be manning on any given night.

But as long as the Mets are winning, it won't matter to Baty.

