



2017 Kansas Koyotes

GM: Bill Schwartz (10th season)

Minor League Affiliates: AAA - Wichita Wranglers, AA - Topeka Capitals, A - Rapid City Chiefs, Rookie - Winner Pheasants
Coaching Staff: Manager- Casey Stengel, Bench Coach – Yogi Berra, Pitching Coach- Whitey Ford, Bullpen coach: Elston Howard, Hitting Coach- Don Mattingly, 1st Base Coach- Mickey Mantle, 3rd Base Coach – Willie Randolph

Kansas pre-season cuts: **Uncarded:** D. Brown, P. Ciriaco, C. Colabello, L. Garcia, B. Matusz, B. Pinder. **Carded:** J. Motte (COL).

Waiver Wire: TBA

Game Type: All Kansas home games will be played “the way that God intended it” with the boards and dice.

Emergency Lineups:

VS. LHP (comp)	VS. RHP (comp)	VS. LHP (board)	VS. RHP (board)
1. Martin – cf-3	1. Segura – ss-9	1. Martin – cf-3	1. Segura – ss-9
2. Segura – ss-9	2. Pedroia – 2b-8	2. Segura – ss-9	2. Pedroia – 2b-8
3. Pedroia – 2b-8	3. Reynolds – 1b-4	3. Pedroia – 2b-8	3. Reynolds – 1b-4
4. Gutierrez – dh	4. Hazelbaker – dh	4. Gutierrez – dh	4. Hazelbaker – dh
5. Springer – lf-3	5. Springer – rf-3	5. Springer – lf-3	5. Springer – rf-3
6. Puig – rf-2	6. Granderson – lf-2	6. Puig – rf-2	6. Granderson – lf-2
7. Reynolds – 1b-4	7. Beckham – 3b-4	7. Francoeur – 3b-3	7. Beckham – 3b-4
8. Francoeur – 3b-3	8. Montero – c-8	8. Gomes – c-8	8. Montero – c-8
9. Gomes – c-8	9. Martin – cf-3	9. Smoak – 1b-5	9. Martin – cf-3

Notes: I will contact road managers by e-mail each month to give individualized lineups or the go-ahead to use the above lineups. **Very seldom will these lineups be used, though.** The chart showing those in the minors each month is included on the roster sheet, but may be revised, especially late in the year. Please contact me if you’d like to start early and I’ll try to accommodate.

Player Usage:

C: Miguel Montero and Yan Gomes will share the catching duties, with Bryan Holaday using all of his 44 games in the months he is on the active roster. Combining their allowable games, 42 extra games are available to utilize a PH or PR in crucial situations late.

1B: Justin Smoak and Mark Reynolds will split the time at first base with Smoak coming in for Reynolds in his starts when Koyotes lead in tight late inning situations.

2B: Dustin Pedroia avoided injuries this year and will be the fulltime 2B.

SS: Jean Segura will be the fulltime SS. Gordon Beckham will provide the other 17 games needed at 2B and SS.

3B: Beckham and Jeff Francoeur will split the time at 3B. It remains to be seen whether Mike Moustakas will play his 27 games at 3B or will be used as a PH and late defensive 3B-5 sub when Koyotes lead tenuously and occasionally start at 3B.

OF: The OF will be a mix and match situation with only George Springer playing almost every day. Curtis Granderson is allowed 150 g., but with his -6 shift vs. LHP will sit against some of them. Some combination of Francoeur (60+ g.), Yasiel Puig (104 g.), Leonys Martin (143 g.), Jeremy Hazelbaker (114 g.) & Franklin Gutierrez (98 g.) will cover the remaining OF and DH games. In a pinch, even Reynolds may be found there. Lots of “mix and matching” again. Granderson, Springer, Hernandez, Puig and Leonys Martin are CF-eligible.

DH: Granderson, Gutierrez & Reynolds will share the DH duties.

Defensive Replacements:

As described above, Moustakas may be used as a defensive sub late. Gomes (Th+3) will be used late if his arm can be a factor. Smoak will replace Reynolds when Koyotes lead late. Martin will be available to replace Francoeur or Gutierrez late. **Monthly instructions will cover the limits on usage.**

Offense:

Pinch Hit/Run: 1B and C will be candidates to be PR for in the 8th or 9th if they represent the tying or winning run.

Granderson and Martin should have extra games available.

If Martin is available, he will attempt the SB.

The starting catcher will be PH for if Koyotes are down and the PH represents the tying or lead run.

Use Gutierrez vs. LH and Granderson or Hazelbaker vs. RH.

Steal Attempts: Only two real threats to steal. Segura and Martin will have the green light in the 9th if the game is tied or Koyotes are down 1. There are a few others with decent SSN's who will get their steal attempts later in the year.

Hit & Run: H&R anytime allowed with Segura on 1st & Pedroia up, Koyotes tied or within a run either way. **Steal instructions take precedence over the H&R's.** Any other options will be spelled out in the monthly instructions.

Sacrifice: VERY RARE. NEVER SQUEEZE!

Offensive Runner Advancement:

Board Game: Consult Adams Table.

Computer Game: always send runners who are “well around third”, hold runners who are “rounding third”, unless a Fast runner and OF arm <31. Be conservative going for third, more aggressive going home, especially with two outs. General Rule for computer: be aggressive with Fast runners and conservative with Slow runners. Also on the computer, if a batter gets an extra base hit and “hits second base with a full head of steam” do **not** consider going for the triple.

Send Runner on Third: With infield in, hold runner if combined 2b/3b/ss fielding rating >18. Any lesser combination, or runners on first and third, Go Go Go!

Outfield Throws: Make all throws <34 chances. Otherwise hold trailing runners. Throw for trailing runners attempting advancement if lead runner is not tie/lead run and trailer is 10+ chances lower.

Computer Game: Make all throws. If you try to advance a trailing runner along with a runner “well around third” cut the throw home and go for the trailer.

Hold Runner on First: For all 1B's hold runner if SSN >24 or a PL batter at bat. Otherwise let 'em roam.

Intentional Walk: Never.

Pitch from Stretch: Only pitch from stretch if 2 outs, 8th inning on, tying or winning runner on third base has an adjusted SSN > 9.

Infield In/Deep: Never play in with two outs or before the 7th inning. Only play infield in if the tying/winning run is on third base, 7th inning on and less than two outs. If the double play is a possibility, always play deep.

For computer managers, when in doubt about any of these computer instructions, play it as you would your own team – I'm admittedly ignorant about the computer game (and intend so stay that way!)

Pitching:

General Philosophy: Only Max Scherzer was healthy all year, so the rotation will be made up of no less than 8 starters. The best starting rotation in Koyote history that made the playoffs but bowed out in the wildcard series is no more. **Max Scherzer** (gr. 15) with 34 starts is the ace and Steven Wright (gr. 12) will provide 24 more decent starts. After that, it gets dicey with gr. 8's **Dallas Keuchel** and **A.J. Griffin** and gr. 7's **Ivan Nova** and **Christian Friedrich** supplying 97 starts., That leaves 7 starts of grade 3 in **Matt Harvey** and **Sonny Gray**.

Nothing better than a grade 16 in the Koyote pen, so the late inning leads will be tenuous. Second round draft choice, grade 16 **Matt Bush**, will be the closer. Two of the remaining three higher grade relievers (**Zach Duke** and **Joaquin Benoit** – grade 16's and **Neftali Feliz** – gr. 15) will be available every series and will be the bridge to Bush or will provide late inning relief in close games. Three of the remaining five relievers (Ken Giles & Kevin Quackenbush – gr. 10's, Joakim Soria & Jim Henderson – gr. 9's, and Liam Hendriks – gr. 8) will always be up and are fairly interchangeable. The general rule will be to try to get 6 or 7 innings out of Scherzer, 6 out of Wright, and 5+ out of the others. Matt Harvey and Sonny Gray may be left in to absorb punishment in their starts. The latter two will be asked to go till "pounded" out if they get bombed early.

No starter should pitch more than 11.2 innings. Don't remove any starting pitcher if he's pitching a shutout.

Starting Pitchers Bio's:

Scherzer – The ace – should go deep in most starts

Wright – The only other above average starter (gr. 12).

Keuchel, Griffin – Gr. 8's that with a little luck will supply 5+ innings per start.

Nova, Friedrich – Late pickup to fill the remaining 16 starts. Will often go to the pen early when he toes the slab.

Harvey, Gray, Severino – Gr. 3 and 4's are scheduled for 7 ugly starts, will probably go till pounded unless lucky.

Bullpen: With only 454 innings of relief, the starters will have to be stretched somewhat. November may see Harvey, Severino & Gray supplying innings. Six relievers will usually be on the active roster. One key to the season: wise management of the pen. The roster will be managed so that regardless of RIP allowable, all relievers except Bush can be used equally in any particular month as need be.

Bullpen Bio's:

Bush: The closer, and with 61.7 RIP can be used in most of the save situations. Discretion will be used as the season goes on in 3 run lead 9th inning situations to conserve innings if necessary. Don't let him go more than one inning unless the Koyotes take a lead in the 10th.

Benoit: Eighth inning man when Koyotes are up 1 or 2.

Feliz: Primary seventh inning man in close games.

Duke: Only LH in the pen, so will be asked to neutralize the lefty hitters where possible.

Giles, Quackenbush, Soria, Henderson, Hendriks: Three of the five mediocre relievers (gr. 8 to 10) will be up in each month and will be used when the pen is required early and also as mopup in the late innings of lost causes. Grade 8's to 10's to try to get game to 7th inning with lead or to eat up innings if starter is fatigued or "pounded". Hendriks has very good peripherals, so can be used in more crucial situations. All RH'ers and basically interchangeable.

Pitching Rotation:

April	vs.	Pitchers	May	vs.	Pitchers	June	vs.	Pitchers
1-4 (5)	@	MLR	1-5		WAR	1-4 (5)	@	SC
6-8 (9)		SC	6-9 (10)		COL	6-8	@	LV
10-12 (13)		LV	11-14	@	RYE	9-11		MLR
14-17 (18)		MUN	15-18 (19)	@	GC	12-16 (17)		CAY
19-23 (24)	@	DET	20-23	@	MID	18-21	@	NBO
July	vs.	Pitchers	August	vs.	Pitchers	September	vs.	Pitchers
1-5	@	HUD	1-4	@	KNOX	(1,2) 3-5	@	MLR
6-9 (10)	@	ZIO	5-8 (9)	@	NW	6-9		SC
11-14		BRO	10-13		HUD	10-13		LV
15-18		CAL	14-17		WHI	14-17 (18)		DET
19-22 (23)		RIV	18-21(22)		HOB	19-23	@	COL
October	vs.	Pitchers	November	vs.	Pitchers			
1-4 (5)	@	WAR	(1) 2-6		ZIO			
6-9	@	MAR	7-10	@	CAY			
10-14	@	MUN	11-13 (14)	@	SC			
15-19		NBO	15-18	@	LV			
20-23 (24)		BH	19-22 (23)		MLR			

S – Scherzer, W – Wright, K – Keuchel, Gf – Griffin, N – Nova, F- Friedrich, H – Harvey, Gr – Gray

Summary: In 2016, the Koyotes made the playoffs as a 95 win wildcard team, but exited in the wildcard series. This year's version doesn't have as much power (only 3 cards with a fourth power number) and doesn't have any relievers with closer type grades (nobody above a grade 16), so an optimistic goal might be a .500 record. The defense is excellent with the ability to fill 8 positions with a Fielding-1 player, although Montero's card comes with a -4 arm. Puig's 38 rifle and Francouer's 36 should prevent baserunners from running wild. The Koyotes traded away the first round choice of this year's draft for Ken Giles last year in their effort to make the playoffs, so an absence of impact players arrived via the draft. Matt Bush, a grade 16 reliever, was the best of the lot.

If you have any questions, use your best baseball judgment and do whatever gives Kansas the best chance at a win. We are looking to have fun despite the fact that we will probably not be contenders.

Have a Fun Season!

NOTE: Please provide scoresheets from road board games and boxscores from computer games (scanned and attached to an e-mail will be fine). Last year, some computer road managers also supplied the play by play file. If it is not too much trouble, I'd appreciate that this year (but not mandatory). **I keep GWH's and GWR's in my personal stats, so I would appreciate it if those who only supply boxscores would list those stats when you send the boxscores.** Thanks.
Do not use any automatic managers.

