



## Pro Sports

# New York Yankees - A Team Preview

By Ryan McCabe '26

As a lifelong Yankees fan, there's always a sense of excitement and anticipation as a new season begins. With the 2025 season around the corner, the vibe in the Bronx is buzzing with optimism. After a few years of playoff disappointments, the Yankees seem to be on the cusp of something special. Here's my fan's take on what to expect from the 2025 squad.

### Pitching: The Strength of the Team?

One of the most promising aspects of the Yankees' 2025 roster is their pitching staff, and it all starts with ace Gerrit Cole. Cole has established himself as one of the premier pitchers in the league, and with each season, he only seems to get better. His ability to dominate hitters, especially in the postseason, will be essential if the Yankees are to contend for a championship.

The biggest change for 2025 comes in the form of Max Fried, who joins the Yankees' rotation from the Atlanta Braves. Fried has been a consistent force in the NL, and his ability to eat innings while maintaining low ERA numbers will be crucial for a Yankees team that needs stability behind Cole. If Fried stays healthy, he could be the left-handed complement to Cole, forming a deadly 1-2 punch at the top of the rotation.

Behind them, Domingo Germán will be a key piece. His stuff is electric, but it's all about his consistency. If Germán can string together a full, solid season, he'll be a major contributor. Clarke Schmidt and Randy Vásquez are intriguing young arms with high potential, and if they step up, the Yankees could have one of the deepest rotations in baseball. The bullpen remains one of the Yankees' strengths. Clay Holmes and Michael King are the anchors, with Holmes expected to be the closer. If Aroldis Chapman can regain his elite velocity and form, he could be a powerful weapon in the late innings. This bullpen has the potential to dominate, and with a rotation that can go deep into games, the Yankees should be in a strong position to finish out close contests.

### Offense: A New-Look Lineup

Offensively, the Yankees' 2025 lineup is stacked, but a few key changes will define the season. Aaron Judge, coming off his historic 2023 MVP season, remains the heart of this offense. His power, consistency, and leadership will be critical as he continues to be the focal point of the lineup. If Judge stays healthy, he'll once again be a game-changer, but the team can't afford to rely on him alone.

One of the major changes is the addition of Cody Bellinger, who brings a dynamic presence to the lineup. After a resurgence with the Cubs, Bellinger has returned to his 2019 MVP-level production, and his defensive versatility in the

outfield will give the Yankees more flexibility. His ability to hit for both power and average provides much-needed balance, and if he's the Bellinger of old, he'll be a game-changer in the middle of the lineup.

Giancarlo Stanton remains a wild card. His ability to hit for massive power is unquestioned, but injuries have been a concern. If Stanton can stay on the field and give the Yankees consistent contributions, the lineup will have another slugger to support Judge and Bellinger. Additionally, DJ LeMahieu, a key piece for the Yankees, will need to bounce back from his injury-plagued seasons and return to his high-contact, high-OBP ways.

The infield could see significant development from Oswald Peraza. His defense at shortstop is elite, and if he can continue to develop offensively, he could be a difference-maker for the Yankees. The combination of Peraza, Bellinger, and a healthy LeMahieu could solidify the middle of the lineup.

### Defense: A Much-Improved Unit

Defensively, the Yankees could have one of their strongest teams in years. With Bellinger joining Aaron Judge in the outfield, the team will boast one of the best defensive outfields in the game. Bellinger's ability to cover ground and make highlight-reel plays will be a huge asset, especially alongside Judge's range and arm strength. Infield defense is also a major strength with Peraza at short and Anthony Volpe possibly getting time at second base. Peraza's defensive chops have impressed since his call-up, and with him holding down shortstop, the Yankees will have a formidable infield. The Yankees' defense will be critical to support their pitchers and limit scoring opportunities for opponents.

### Outlook: Can They Finally Get Over the Hump?

As always, the Yankees are expected to contend for a World Series, and 2025 is no exception. The combination of elite pitching, a powerful offense, and strong defense makes them a legitimate contender in the American League. Gerrit Cole and Max Fried give them a top-tier pitching staff, while Aaron Judge, Cody Bellinger, and Giancarlo Stanton provide plenty of firepower at the plate.

But the road to a championship won't be easy. The American League is filled with powerhouse teams like the Astros and the Blue Jays, and the Yankees will need to be at their best to get past them. However, with the right health and performance from key players, this could be the year the Yankees finally break through and bring home that 28th championship.

As a fan, I'm cautiously optimistic. This roster has the talent to go all the way, and after years of coming up short, 2025 could be the year the Yankees reclaim their rightful place at the top. Let's go, Yankees!