

Why the Kansas City Royals didn't make any selections during 2025 Rule 5 Draft

BY JAYLON THOMPSON
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ORLANDO, FLA. — The Kansas City Royals didn't make a selection in either portion of the 2025 Rule 5 Draft.

On Wednesday, the Royals monitored the annual event. There were scouting representatives from all 30 teams in attendance. The Rule 5 Draft consisted of a major-league phase and minor-league component.

"We probably discussed five pitchers and it was four position players that we thought were worthy of discussion," Picollo said.

"But in the end, we view the Rule 5 player as they're essentially an out of options player. So if you acquire them, they have to stay on your team. ... I think the Rule 5 is fairly often a reflection of where a team is in their timeline and your progression."

The Royals protected starters Ben Kudrna and Steven Zobac in November. They were added to the 40-man roster ahead of the Winter Meetings. However, the Royals left talented prospects such as Javier Vaz and Chandler Champlain available for the Rule 5 Draft.

Both players remained with the Royals. In fact,

the club didn't lose any unprotected prospects during the Rule 5 Draft. "You don't want to lose anybody in the Rule 5, especially in the major-league phase," Picollo said. "The major-league phase is a little bit more predictable than the minor-league phase as a lot of it is how is your Double-A team stacking up? ... It's a little bit based more on need, where the major-league phase can be pretty impactful. Guys that we may not have protected doesn't mean they don't factor into our major league team."

The Royals' current 40-man roster stands at 38 players. There's a chance the number could grow depending on how the offseason pans out.

At the Winter Meetings, Picollo held multiple conversations with agents and other teams. He also confirmed the Royals have offers on the table. Now, the club enters a waiting game as free agents will survey their options.

"I'll say we're in a good spot in a sense that we've not lost out on anybody we have really great interest in," Picollo said. "It's a matter of just hanging in especially on the free-agent side."



ED ZURGA Getty Images

Kris Bubic of the Kansas City Royals pitches in the first inning against the Pittsburgh Pirates at Kauffman Stadium on July 9 in Kansas City.

FROM PAGE 1B

ROYALS

said Monday. "When you look at when Cole is right, he's as good as anybody in the game. And it's rare that you have an opportunity to have somebody like that. And we have him for three more years. ...

"The reality is, if we didn't have Cole Ragans in our rotation, we'd feel like we're missing something really big."

So what will the Royals do next?

In coming days, they will evaluate information Picollo and fellow club officials gathered at the Winter Meetings. More conversations between agents and opposing teams are likely, too.

It's not uncommon for the Winter Meetings to be relatively devoid of Royals player-movement headlines. In 2023, the Royals had conversations surrounding pitchers Seth Lugo and Michael Wacha. Both players were prospective free agents and signed with the club in late December.

The Winter Meetings laid the groundwork for the Royals' playoff run in 2024. It's possible that a similar occurrence will happen later this offseason.

Here are three things to know as the Winter Meetings conclude:

ROYALS WILL REMAIN ACTIVE THIS OFFSEASON

The Royals will look for ways to improve their 40-man roster ahead of spring training. There are ample opportunities to find players who can help in 2026.

Most players elect to sign closer to the new season. That will afford the Royals a chance to

continue building offers and evaluating the current landscape. For example, KC signed closer Carlos Estévez last February, and that worked out well as Estévez enjoyed an All-Star season and led the majors in saves.

It's worth monitoring the outfield market, as well. There could be fast movement once the big names — such as Kyle Tucker and Cody Bellinger — sign new deals. And that point any number of teams could intensify their pursuit of available players.

This would benefit the Royals. A potential free agent could be willing to sign quickly once dominoes start falling.

As for potential trades, Picollo said he is still working the phones. The organization has interest in making a significant deal, but some complications have arisen. One of the biggest: comparing value between multiple teams and navigating toward a fair exchange for each side.

"I would say that the avenue to get where we want to go via trade is a little complicated," Picollo said. "So, that's just going to take time if it's gonna happen."

The relief market is already warm. Edwin Diaz shocked the baseball world by signing with the Los Angeles Dodgers on Tuesday. Now, teams could refocus on finding relievers, at least in the short term.

Expect the Royals to be patient while looking for a left-handed specialist. They return a solid bullpen and can afford to wait until the market stabilizes before considering a

move.

KRIS BUBIC UPDATE

Starting pitcher Kris Bubic has been the subject of trade rumors this offseason. Multiple teams have interest ... but some may be apprehensive as he recovers from a left rotator cuff strain.

The shoulder injury sidelined him last season. Bubic made the All-Star team but didn't pitch down the stretch. While he didn't require surgery, the Royals want to see him make a full recovery ahead of spring training.

On Monday, Royals manager Matt Quatraro said Bubic is progressing well. He noted that Bubic is throwing again and will have a scheduled bullpen session in January.

"He's throwing and everything has been great," Quatraro said.

Bubic has one year of team control remaining. As the Royals evaluate their roster, he could be a key asset — either in the starting rotation or through a trade — if he returns to full health.

SALVY PLAYING IN VENEZUELA

There isn't much baseball stateside at the current moment. However, Royals team captain Salvador Perez found a way to continue playing.

Perez suited up for Leones del Caracas this winter. It was a special decision as Perez honored his mom, Yilda Diaz, by playing for the club in the Venezuelan Professional Baseball League.

So far, Perez has done well.

The Royals icon made his debut last week. He already hit a home run and infused the offense in short order. He will continue to play for the team as he prepares for the World Baseball Classic in March.

"I think that's what makes him who he is," Quatraro said. "He loves the game, you know. And the passion for winter ball in Venezuela is remarkable. So now, this is his first year being with Caracas ... I know that's a very big team there. You know, I worked there and understand the dynamic there. For a guy like Salvy to go play for a team like Caracas is as big as it gets in Venezuela. I think that's really special and I'm happy that he is doing it."

Perez was named Venezuela's team captain in the WBC. He will guide the club in the global event which begins on March 4.

Braves sign OF Yastrzemski to 2-year, \$23M deal

Field Level Media

The Atlanta Braves signed free agent outfielder Mike Yastrzemski to a two-year, \$23 million contract on Wednesday.

Yastrzemski will make \$9 million in 2026 and \$10 million in 2027 with a team option worth \$7 million for 2028 or a \$4 million buyout.

The grandson of Baseball Hall of Famer Carl Yastrzemski, Mike Yastrzemski has a career .238 average with 123 home runs and 364 RBIs over 840 games spanning seven seasons.

Yastrzemski, 35, was selected by the Baltimore Orioles in the 14th round

of the 2013 draft but had spent his entire major league career with the San Francisco Giants before he was traded to the Kansas City Royals at this year's trade deadline for pitching prospect Yunior Marte. He became a free agent after the season.

The left-handed batter broke onto the scene with a .272 batting average and 21 homers in 107 games as a rookie in 2019. He finished eighth in National League MVP voting in the COVID-shortened 2020 season when he hit .297 with 10 home runs and 14 doubles in 54 games.

Yastrzemski hasn't surpassed the 20-homer milestone or hit better

than .235 in the four seasons since hitting 25 homers in 2021. He batted .233 with 17 homers, 28 doubles and 46 RBIs in 146 games last season between the Giants and the Royals.

Yastrzemski has traditionally played right field, but that spot has been held of late by Braves superstar Ronald Acuna Jr. It remains to be seen if Yastrzemski settles into left field or is more of a rotational fourth outfielder.

To open a spot on the 40-man roster, Atlanta designated outfielder Michael Siani for assignment.

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Legals

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NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

For default under the terms of the Deed of Trust executed by JUANITA J. IRVIN, dated 11/26/2012, recorded on 12/11/2012 in Book 3637, Page 78 under Auditor's File No. 513329, Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Cass County, Missouri. The undersigned Successor Trustee, between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, will on **1/2/2026 at 11:00 AM** at 102 East Wall Street, Harrisonville MO 64701, sell at public venue to the highest bidder for cash (certified funds only) the following real estate:

THE LAND DESCRIBED HEREIN IS SITUATED IN THE STATE OF MISSOURI, COUNTY OF CASS, AND IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

LOT 2, BLOCK 6, PICKERING PLACE, A SUBDIVISION IN CASS COUNTY, MISSOURI, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF, FILED IN PLAT BOOK 11 AT PAGE 42 AND AS SHOWN ON THE CERTIFICATE OF SURVEY FILED IN BOOK RSI AT PAGE 33.

PARCEL NUMBER(S): 04-09-30-100.004.002.000

to satisfy said debt and costs.

Western Progressive - Missouri, Inc., Successor Trustee, (866)-960-8299, may be deemed to be a debt collector and, if so, is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. §1692c(b), no information concerning the collection of this debt may be given without prior consent of the consumer given directly to the debt collector or the express permission of a court of competent jurisdiction.

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Sale Information Line: (866) 960-8299 <https://www.altisource.com/lo-image.aspx>

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Trustee Sale Assistant
IPL0295127
Dec 5,12,19,26 2025

Legals & Public Notices

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS CITY OF KEARNEY, MISSOURI JIM & GERRI HALL PARK FITNESS COURT RFP (LWCF Project No.29-01777)

The City of Kearney Parks and Recreation will accept proposals from vendors or vendor's representatives interested in providing the following: DESIGN, LAYOUT, AND INSTALLATION OF OUTDOOR FITNESS EQUIPMENT, SAFETY SURFACING, AND SHADE STRUCTURE at JIM & GERRI HALL PARK. Proposals must be received by Friday December 19th at 2:00 p.m., at Kearney City Hall Parks and Recreation Offices, 100 E. Washington Street, Kearney, MO 64060.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held at Kearney City Hall on Thursday, December 4th at 2:00 p.m.. The City reserves the right to reject any and all proposals. All addendums must be signed and included with proposal. Proposal documents may be found on the City's website: https://www.kearney-mo.us/how_do_i/apply_for/bid_opportunities.php Interested parties may also view and/or purchase Proposal Documents at <http://www.drexelttech.com> in their eDistribution plan room. Contact distribution@drexelttech.com for assistance. Any associated fees are non-refundable. Questions and clarifications about the Project or Proposal Documents should be directed to the Owner's Representative:Vireo Project Manager: Larry Reynolds Email: larry@bevireo.com Phone: 816-777-3046

All wages paid for work under this Contract shall comply with requirements of the prevailing wage law of the State of Missouri, Sec 290.210 et seq., R.S. Mo., as amended by the Division of Labor Standards, State of Missouri.

The City of Kearney hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, individuals will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, creed, sex, age, ancestry or national origin in consideration for an award. Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds are being used in this project, and all relevant federal, state, and local requirements apply

For any agreement greater than \$5,000, the successful proposer shall comply with § 285.530, RSMo, as amended, and by sworn affidavit affirming that it does not knowingly employ any person who is an unauthorized alien and provision of documentation affirm its enrollment and participation in a federal work authorization program with respect to the employees working in connection with this agreement. The required documentation must be from the federal work authorization program provider. Letter from respondent reciting compliance is not sufficient. All proposals should include the signed and notarized Work Authorization Affidavit and the electronic signature page from the E-Verify program.

The contractor and all subcontractors to the contract must require all on-site employees to complete the ten-hour OSHA safety training program required under RSMo 292.675, if they have not previously completed the program and have documentation of having done so. The contractor will forfeit a penalty to the contracting public body \$2,500.00 plus an additional \$100.00 for each employee employed by the contractor or subcontractor, for each calendar day, or portion thereof, such employee is employed without the required training, pursuant to RSMo 292.675. The contractor shall provide a copy of proof of the OSHA training prior to beginning work. In addition, the City is required to notify the Department of Labor when work on the project will commence.

IPL0293243
Nov 28,Dec 5,12 2025

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Sealed bids for the Kendzora (Anthony and Beatrice) CA Lake Drain Structure Replacement (96-08-06), Platte County, Missouri, will be received online at Virtubid with QuestCDN, UNTIL 3:00 PM, January 6, 2026, then publicly opened. A Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid meeting will be held for this project at 11:00 AM on December 17, 2025, at the Northwest Regional Office (located on the Missouri Western State College Campus), 701 James McCarthy Drive, St. Joseph, MO 64507; followed by a site visit at GPS coordinates 39.526558, -94.643231, about 35 minutes southeast of St. Joseph. Project bid documents must be downloaded at <https://mdc.mo.gov/bidding>, Quest number 9969996, for a non-refundable cost of \$42.00, which will add your company to the Planholder List and allow access to Virtubid for online submittal of your bid. For project questions contact Ben Rankin, (573) 522-4115 ext. 3596, bidding questions contact Veronica Mecko, (573) 522-4115 ext. 3744. QuestCDN Customer Support is available at 952-233-1632 or info@questcdn.com IPL0295866 Dec 7-12,14-17 2025

NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF BIDS

Notice is hereby given that the Liberty Public School District No. 53 will receive bid proposals for the following:

FOUNDATION UNDERPINNING SERVICE - ALEXANDER DONIPHAN ELEMENTARY

The District reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any informality. Copies of bid documents may be secured by emailing Jason Breit, Director of Purchasing at jason.breit@lps53.org.

Sealed bids must be submitted by 1:00 PM CST, Thursday, January 8, 2026 at which time all bid proposals received will be publicly opened.

Bids should be delivered to: Liberty Public Schools Distribution Center 1142 Southview Dr Liberty, MO 64068 Attn: Jason Breit Director of Purchasing 816-736-5358

IPL0297657
Dec 12,19 2025

Legals & Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of Ricardo Morales Colon, whose last known address was 1712 Central Ave., Kansas City, Kansas 66102, and/or his legal heirs or successors contact Judith A. DeFraites, Atty at Law, at (504) 528-9500 (p), (504) 884-8712(p) 700 Camp Street, New Orleans, LA 70130. Judith.defraites.law@gmail.com. IPL0297543 Dec 12,14-15 2025

NOTICE OF BID

Bids for Statewide Job Order Contract, Project No. IDQMCA-6005, will be received by FMDC, State of MO, in **January 2026**. When released, bid documents will be available at: <http://ga.mo.gov/facilities>. IPL0296679 Dec 8-12,14-18 2025

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