Who Was the Most Well-Rounded MLB Position Player in 2025?

While this might not be the league's best player, this article sets out to find the most well-rounded player using the 5 tools of Baseball.

Note: All Statistics were gathered from Baseball Savant unless otherwise stated.

By: Jarrett Karnibad | November 10, 2025

Many scouts often use the phrase "five-tool player" when describing prospects or young players. This term is used to describe a player who can do it all. The five tools are hitting for contact, hitting for power, fielding, throwing, and running. To be a major leaguer, usually one must excel in at least one or two of those five categories. Nick Allen of the Atlanta Braves comes to mind. While Allen was the worst qualified hitter in the league in the statistical category of xwOBA[1], he was in the 99th percentile for Outs Above Average, a fielding statistic that measures a player's fielding range and success. Nick Allen, while currently not a very good hitter, for contact or for power, is an elite level defender. True MLB five-tool players are rare. David Adler of MLB.com wrote an article in August of 2024, in which he attempted to build the best five-tool player, selecting one different player to represent each category.[2] This article will differ in that it will try to answer who is the best five-tool player, rather than building a player, built from other players.

In order to find the best five-tool player, I used Baseball Savant's Percentile Rankings Leaderboard among other statistics. This leaderboard has each qualified player's advanced statistics ranked in order of percentiles, perfect for trying to find who ranks the highest in the categories needed for this article. A great five-tool player must be at least above average in all five areas. Each category will have its own criteria to eliminate players that are below average. Players that pass the criteria in all five categories will be added to the Final Five-Tool Player List. Once this list is compiled, players will receive

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[1] Stands for Expected Weighted On-Base Average; a statcast stat that estimates a hitter's expected success of their batted balls using launch angle and exit velocity. It is now being used as the most complete batting advanced statistic.

[2] https://www.mlb.com/news/building-the-best-5-tool-player-in-baseball-in-2024

points based on how they rank compared only to the other players on the list. The player with the most points after all five categories will be declared the Most Well Rounded Player of 2025.

Starting with Hitting for Contact, I used an average of three hitting statistics that I felt encompassed the essence of a great contact hitter: Expected Batting Average (xBA), Whiff Rate (Whiff%), and Strikeout Rate (K%). I chose these three in particular because a good contact hitter has a high batting average, is able to put the bat on the ball, and does not strike out often. The player that Adler chose to represent this category in his 2024 article was Luis Arraez, the very definition of an excellent contact hitter. Arraez has won the Batting Title for the highest batting average three times, with three different teams. Here are some notable names that did not have an average percentile rank of above 50 for those three categories, and thus cannot be the best five-tool player: Aaron Judge, Shohei Ohtani, and Elly De La Cruz. All three of those players fell victim to extremely low Whiff% and K% percentile rankings that really brought their Contact Batting averages down. Players that qualified in the four other categories except Contact Hitting (listed in order of how close they were to qualifying) are: Jackson Chourio, Wilyer Abreu, Matt Chapman, Ezequiel Tovar, Pete Crow-Armstrong, Wyatt Langford, Luis Robert Jr, Byron Buxton, Brenton Doyle, Willy Adames, Daniel Schneerman, and Oneil Cruz.

Next up is Hitting for Power. For this category, I chose two statistics: Expected Slugging Percentage (xSlug) and Barrel Rate (B%)[3]. These two statistics go hand in hand in identifying power hitters. The Barrel Rate represents how often a hitter strikes the ball on the barrel of the bat with the right launch angle and exit velocity. The player that Adler used to represent Power Hitting in his 2024 article was Aaron Judge. It should come as no surprise to anyone that Judge was the leader in the two power hitting statistical percentile ranks. Judge and Ohtani both had an average of 100 in this category, the highest possible score. Some notable players that missed the cutoff in this category are José Ramirez, Gunnar Henderson, and Mookie Betts. An AL MVP finalist, Ramirez missed the cutoff by 1, his average percentile rank of 49 was due to his lower Barrel Rate rank. Players that qualified in the four other categories except Power Hitting (listed in order of how close they were to qualifying) are: Cody Bellinger, Maikel Garcia, Zach McKinstry, Isaac Collins, Tyrone Taylor, Masyn Winn, Sal Frelick, Jake Mangum, Javier Sanoja, Jacob Young, and Mauricio Dubón.[4] One interesting note about this list of players that just missed making the final five-tool player list: Only Bellinger and Garcia had an average Power Hitting Percentile above 30. Thus the rest of the players were really not that close to making the final list.

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[3] From Baseball Savant: To be Barreled, a batted ball requires an exit velocity of at least 98 mph. At that speed, balls struck with a launch angle between 26-30 degrees always garner Barreled classification. For every mph over 98, the range of launch angles expands.
For more: https://www.mlb.com/glossary/statcast/barrel

[4] As a Mets fan myself, I was stunned to see that Tyrone Taylor was one category away from making the five-tool final player list.

The next category is Running, which will be represented by a player's Sprint Speed. This is actually the first of two qualifiers for this category. The first cutoff will eliminate players below a percentile rank of 50 for their sprint speed. The second cutoff will eliminate players who have a negative baserunning run value. This helps measure their baserunning skill, as opposed to just their maximum sprint speed. The representative for Running in Adler's article was Elly De La Cruz. Surprisingly, De La Cruz only landed in the 91st percentile for Sprint Speed in 2025. After the first cutoff, there were 122 qualified players with a percentile rank above 50 for sprint speed. After removing players with a negative baserunning run value, there were only 92 players remaining. The only player that qualified in the four other categories except for running was Tyler Soderstrom, who landed in the 49th percentile rank for sprint speed, just narrowly missing out!

The fourth category is Fielding, and it will comprise of two non-percentile statistics: Defensive Runs Saved (from Fielding Bible) and Baseball Savant's Fielding Run Value. Because these two stats represent a fielder's impact on the game in terms of runs, it can be either positive or negative. A negative value means that the fielder is costing their team runs on defense. A positive value indicates a fielder has a positive impact defensively and is preventing the other team from scoring runs. For both stats, a value of zero indicates an average defender. Because of this, in order to make the final five-tool player list, players must have a positive value in both DRS and Fielding Run Value. There are a total of 89 players that fit this criteria. This really narrows down the list of potential five-tool players. Adler's fielding representative was Bobby Witt Jr, who showed his defensive prowess by successfully being one of the 89 players that fit this criteria. Players that qualified in the four other categories except Fielding are: Brandon Marsh, Andy Pages, and George Springer.

The final category for a five-tool player is Throwing, and this will be represented by Arm Strength. All infield and outfield players will use the Baseball Savant Statcast Percentile Rankings. Catchers are not listed in the percentile rankings, and so they will be graded against other catchers only. Adler chose Oneil Cruz to represent Throwing in his article. It was a phenomenal choice as Oneil had the fastest average throw speed in the Major Leagues in 2025 at 98.2 miles per hour. The only player that qualified in the four other categories except Throwing was Jeremy Peña.

Now to the Final Five-Tool Player List. Only seven players fit all of the criteria used to select the most well-rounded player of the season. Those seven players are: Fernando Tatis Jr, Jackson Merrill, Julio Rodriguez, Michael Harris II, Bobby Witt Jr, Corbin Carroll, and Dillon Dingler. So, now that we have the final list of seven players, we will go back through those initial criteria and rank the seven players in each category, giving seven points for first place, six points for second place, all the way to one point for seventh place. For the two hitting categories, I will be using the same averages as before. For Running, I will be using Sprint Speed Percentile Rankings. For Fielding, I will be using the sum of the Z-Scores for

Player	Contact	Power	Running	Fielding	Throwing	Total
Bobby Witt Jr.	7	5	7	6	3	28
Fernando Tatis Jr.	5	4	4	7	7	27
Julio Rodríguez	3	3	5	5	5	21
Corbin Carroll	2	7	6	3	2	20
Michael Harris II	6	1	3	2	4	16
Jackson Merrill	1	6	2	1	6	16
Dillon Dingler	4	2	1	4	1	12

Defensive Runs Saved and Fielding Run Value. The Z-Scores will be calculated using only the 89 players that had a positive value in both statistics. Finally, for Throwing, I will be using arm strength in terms of their average miles per hour on qualified throws (sorry catchers!).

The final results are shown above on the table. Bobby Witt Jr narrowly defeats Fernando Tatis Jr by only one point, and is crowned MLB's Most Well Rounded Player of 2025! A couple notes about the final seven. It was an incredibly impressive season for Dillon Dingler to even make the final five-tool player list. He was the only catcher to make the finals. Additionally, Bobby Witt Jr was the only infielder to make the finals. Tatis Jr and Corbin Carroll played right field, while Julio Rodriguez, Michael Harris II, and Jackson Merrill played center field. All seven players had a positive fWAR, with Bobby Witt Jr leading the pack with 8.0 Wins Above Replacement, while Michael Harris II brought up the rear with only 1.4 Wins Above Replacement.[5]

This article just goes to show how rare a true five-tool player is in today's league. Only seven players fit the criteria in 2025. Great players such as Aaron Judge, Shohei Ohtani, Juan Soto, Cal Raleigh, and more missed out. But Bobby Witt Jr stands above them all, and takes home the coveted MLB's Most Well Rounded Player of 2025.

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[5] FanGraphs WAR Leaderboard: https://www.fangraphs.com/leaders/war