2013 National Baseball Arbitration Competition

Tommy Hanson vs. Atlanta Braves
Submission of $3.5 million on Behalf of the Atlanta Braves
By: Team 3
Midpoint: $3.9 million
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I. Introduction and Request for Hearing Decision

This brief analyzes the contributions of Atlanta Braves (herein “Club” or “Braves”) starting right-hander pitcher Tommy Hanson (herein “Player” or “Hanson”). Major League Baseball’s Collective Bargaining Agreement governs this arbitration hearing and sets forth the following criteria by which this salary arbitration case is presented: 1) the quality of contributions to the club this past season; 2) the length and consistency of career contributions; 3) comparative baseball salaries; 4) the existence of any mental or physical defects; 5) the recent performance of the Club; and 6) past compensation. While Hanson is a valued member of this team, the Braves are rightfully concerned with Hanson’s subpar 2012 season and alarming drop in velocity over the past two years. The evidence presented in this brief demonstrates that Hanson is worth less than $3.9 million, and the Braves respectively request that this Panel award Hanson the Club’s $3.5 million submission.

II. Quality of Player’s Contributions During Past Season

Hanson had a disappointing season in 2012, and the Braves have a legitimate reason to be worried. The 26-year-old pitcher’s numbers were anything but pretty.

| Table 1: Tommy Hanson 2012 Stats |
|---------|---------|---------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| W       | L       | IP     | TBF  | ERA  | H   | BB  | HR  | BB/9 | HR/9 | WHIP | WAR  |
| 13      | 10      | 174.2  | 761  | 4.48 | 183 | 71  | 27  | 3.66 | 1.39 | 1.45 | 1.0  |

Hanson allowed one of his scantiest slash-lines, permitting 761 batters to hit a .271/.344/.464 off of him. Moreover, he finished the year with a 4.48 ERA, a career-worst. Over 174.2 innings, Hanson allowed a lot of hits (183), which included a high

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1 MLB Collective Bargaining Agreement
number of walks (71) and homeruns (27), the majority of which were detrimental, given up later in the game. A positive, Hanson did end the season at 13-10. Still, he had many notable career worsts: a 3.66 BB/9; a 1.39 HR/9; and a 1.45 WHIP. Hanson was valued at a career-low 1.0 WAR for the season.

Hanson committed 5 errors as pitcher, second highest in the NL. While pitchers typically are not expected to perform well on offense, it should not be overlooked that Hanson finished the season slugging .020, the worst hitting percentage of all NL pitchers.

<p>| Table 2: Tommy Hanson Velocity |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>FA</th>
<th>SL</th>
<th>CU</th>
<th>CH</th>
<th>FT</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>92.2</td>
<td>83.3</td>
<td>76.4</td>
<td>82.6</td>
<td>89.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>92.7</td>
<td>84.1</td>
<td>76.2</td>
<td>83.5</td>
<td>92.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>91.1</td>
<td>81.7</td>
<td>74.6</td>
<td>81.1</td>
<td>91.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>89.6</td>
<td>80.9</td>
<td>72.9</td>
<td>81.2</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Hanson’s most frightening culprit of 2012 was his reduction in velocity. While all of his pitches were noticeably slower, Hanson’s fastball velocity fell below 90 mph, an astonishing drop for a pitcher who began his career just three years ago throwing a 92-93 mph fastball. Hanson’s drop in velocity is certainly reason for the Braves to be apprehensive about the pitcher headed into 2013.

III. Length and Consistency of Career Contribution

To his credit, Hanson was fairly consistent for his first three seasons. His rookie season was stellar, going 11-4 and finishing with 2.89 ERA and 1.18 WHIP. Hanson pitched 127.2 innings and achieved 116 strikeouts. Hanson finished 3rd in voting for

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Rookie of the Year. At the age of 22, Hanson had not only effortlessly earned himself a spot in the Braves’ rotation, but he was well on his way to establishing himself as the ace of Atlanta’s pitching staff.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>W-L</th>
<th>ERA</th>
<th>IP</th>
<th>WHIP</th>
<th>AVG</th>
<th>K/9</th>
<th>BB/9</th>
<th>HR/9</th>
<th>BB</th>
<th>SO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>11-4</td>
<td>2.89</td>
<td>127.2</td>
<td>1.18</td>
<td>.223</td>
<td>8.18</td>
<td>3.24</td>
<td>0.70</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>10-11</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>202.2</td>
<td>1.18</td>
<td>.235</td>
<td>7.68</td>
<td>2.49</td>
<td>0.62</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>11-7</td>
<td>3.60</td>
<td>130.0</td>
<td>1.17</td>
<td>.216</td>
<td>9.93</td>
<td>3.18</td>
<td>1.18</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>13-10</td>
<td>4.48</td>
<td>174.2</td>
<td>1.45</td>
<td>.267</td>
<td>8.30</td>
<td>3.66</td>
<td>1.39</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For three seasons, Hanson kept his batting average against .235 or lower and his WHIP close to 1.18. Due to shoulder tendinitis, 2011 was not a complete season for Hanson, but between 2009 and 2010, Hanson also significantly increased his number of strikeouts. Unfortunately, some of Hanson’s stats were not so good. His ERA has been trending upward each season since 2009. This past year, Hanson’s astonishing 4.48 ERA was a career-high. Another career-first, Hanson’s WHIP shot up to 1.45 this past season. Hanson’s HR/9 is trending in the wrong direction and for the past 3 seasons, so has his BB/9. Up to this point in Hanson’s career, he had allowed a total of 81 stolen bases, and over the past two seasons, opponents had a 90% success rate verses the pitcher in stolen base attempts.

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Hanson’s 2012 month-by-month split is disturbing. In June, Hanson had a 3.13 ERA but a dismal 6.25 K/9, allowing 2.27 HR/9. By August, Hanson’s HR/9 had gone down to 0.57, but his walk rate was at 4.02 BB/9. Every time Hanson managed to fix the prior month’s issue, a new problem would arise. Such inconsistencies are troublesome.

IV. Comparative Baseball Salaries

For the purposes of establishing Hanson’s value to the Club, it is useful to compare his platform season and career statistics with those of Phil Hughes (herein “Hughes”), Max Scherzer (herein “Scherzer”), and Joe Saunders (herein “Saunders”). These comparisons clearly indicate Hanson’s value is below the $3.9 million midpoint and, as such, this panel should decide in favor of the Club.

a. Phil Hughes – RHP ($2.7 million in 2011)

Comparing Hanson to Hughes establishes a value well below the $3.9 million midpoint. Following the 2010 season, Hughes received one-year deal worth $2.7 million -- $1.2 million below the $3.9 million midpoint before this panel today.11

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Despite Hanson starting in more Games than Hughes (31 to 29), Hanson managed to pitch in fewer Innings (174.2 to 176.1) and rack up fewer Wins (13 to 18). This illustrates that Hughes had a more productive platform season than Hanson did. Further, Hanson failed to match Hughes performance in a few areas; Hanson posted a higher ERA (4.48 to 4.19) and WHIP (1.454 to 1.248), as well as higher H/9 (9.4 to 8.3) and HR/9 (1.4 to 1.3).

Table 6: Career

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tommy Hanson</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MLS</td>
<td>Value</td>
<td>GS</td>
<td>IP</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>WHIP</td>
<td>H/9</td>
<td>HR/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.120</td>
<td>$3.9 mil</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>635.0</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>1.252</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phil Hughes</td>
<td></td>
<td>58</td>
<td>359.0</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1.266</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

While Hanson has almost double the amount of games started as Hughes (108 to 57) throughout his career, he has failed to pull away in number of Wins, posting only 14 more than Hughes (45 to 31). Hanson and Hughes have an identical H/9 over the duration of their respective career (8.2), and a similar HR/9 (1.0 to 1.9) and WHIP (1.252 to 1.266).

Due to Hughes having a much more productive platform season than Hanson, it is clear that Hanson’s value is at most equal to that of Hughes, if not less. Hughes’ career Wins illustrate that he is more reliable than Hanson. Therefore, Hanson’s value is well below that of the $3.9 million midpoint.

b. Max Scherzer – RHP ($3.75 million in 2012)

Comparing Hanson to Scherzer also shows that Hanson’s value falls below the $3.9 million midpoint. After the 2011 season, Scherzer signed a one-year $3.75 million deal, $150k less than the $3.9 million midpoint before the panel today.14

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13 Id.
In their platform seasons, Hanson pitched in less Games (31 to 33) and Innings (174.2 to 195.0) than Scherzer, showing that Scherzer was a more durable pitcher. Hanson also posted a higher ERA (4.48 to 4.43) and HR/9 (1.4 to 1.3) than Scherzer, and Hanson’s WHIP was over a full point higher (1.454 to 1.349). During their platform seasons, Hanson did not post as many Wins (13 to 15) or K’s (161 to 174) as Scherzer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 7: Platform Season</th>
<th>MLS Value</th>
<th>GS</th>
<th>IP</th>
<th>ERA</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>K</th>
<th>WHIP</th>
<th>HR/9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tommy Hanson</td>
<td>3.120</td>
<td>$3.9 mil</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>174.2</td>
<td>4.48</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>1.454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max Scherzer</td>
<td>3.079</td>
<td>$3.75 mil</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>195.0</td>
<td>4.43</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>1.349</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

While Hanson has started more Games than Scherzer in his career (108 to 101), Hanson has failed to rack up as many K’s as Scherzer (592 to 598), leading to a lower K/9 (8.4 to 8.7). Hanson and Scherzer also have a comparable HR/9 throughout their respective careers (1.0 to 1.1).

The statistics above illustrate that Scherzer had a much better platform season than Hanson did, and that Scherzer produces more K’s than Hanson does. Due to this, Hanson’s value is at least equal to, if not less than, that of Scherzer’s -- $150k below the midpoint before this panel.

c. **Joe Saunders – LHP ($3.7 million in 2010)**

Lastly, comparing Hanson to Saunders also shows that Hanson’s value is below the $3.9 million midpoint. In 2010 Saunders reached a one-year deal worth $3.7 million - - $200k below the $3.9 million midpoint.17

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16 Id.
Hanson and Saunders pitched in the same number of Games (31), but Hanson did not match the amount of Innings that Saunders pitched (174.2 to 186.0). While Hanson did have a better ERA than Saunders (4.48 to 4.60), Hanson did not put up as many Wins as Saunders (13 to 16). Further, Hanson posted a higher WHIP (1.454 to 1.430) than Saunders, and had an equal HR/9 (1.4).

Despite Hanson starting more Games than Saunders throughout his career (108 to 101), Hanson failed to put up as many Wins (45 to 48). Hanson and Saunders also have a comparable HR/9 throughout their respective careers (1.0 to 1.1).

Hanson and Saunders played in the same amount of games during their platform seasons, but Saunders put up more Wins and Innings, showing that he was the more productive of the two. Saunders also has more Wins throughout his career, putting Hanson’s value at least equal, if not less than Saunders value of $3.7 million -- $200k before the midpoint before this panel.

V. Existence of Mental and Physical Defects

A healthy Hanson would likely dominate the field. Unfortunately, Hanson has managed to rack-up quite the injury history over his young career.

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19 Id.
Table 11: Injury History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Injury Description</th>
<th>Severity</th>
<th>Body Part</th>
<th>Games/Days</th>
<th>Reaggravation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7/31/2012</td>
<td>Strain</td>
<td>Low Back</td>
<td>16/17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/20/2012</td>
<td>Concussion, Car Accident</td>
<td>Head</td>
<td>0/20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/7/2011</td>
<td>Impingement, Rotator Cuff Strain and Tendinitis</td>
<td>Right Shoulder</td>
<td>48/53</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/13/2011</td>
<td>Impingement, Tendinitis</td>
<td>Right Shoulder</td>
<td>14/15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hanson is no stranger to the disabled list (“DL”). In June of this year, Hanson took a 15-day trip due to problems with his pitching shoulder. Again in August, Hanson was back on the list after lasting only 3 innings in a game verses the New York Mets. Yet, because the injury had progressed, Hanson would stay on the list, missing what was left of the 2011 season.

It is inevitable for a pitcher to experience some injury. However, Hanson is particularly susceptible to risk of injury because of his sole reliance on arm strength to generate velocity. Consequently, Hanson’s lingering shoulder issues played into his faltering performance this past season, and because shoulder problems are generally reoccurring, the Braves are anxious about Hanson’s right arm.

VI. Recent Performance of the Club

There were high expectations for the Braves to clinch a division title in 2012. Unfortunately, their dreams fell flat, and the team managed only a second place finish for the third consecutive year. The Club finished with a record of 94-68, four wins back of the NL East champs, the Washington Nationals. While the Braves made it to the playoffs after winning a Wild Card spot, excitement was short-lived, as the team lost out

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23 Id.
in their first game against the St. Louis Cardinals after a controversial play in the eighth. An ironic ending to yet another disappointing season.24

While the Braves had a strong season, for a team capable of more, the season was one of missed opportunity. Starting pitching is one of the Braves’ strongest assets, and despite an injury-plagued 2011, Hanson was projected to be a key member of the Braves’ rotation. However, a change-up in Hanson’s delivery to lessen the amount of stress on his shoulder resulted in a disappointing and average season for the pitcher. Despite last season’s performance, the Club is confident that they possess the potential to perform better in 2013, and consider Hanson’s contributions fundamental to such success.

VII. Past Compensation

Given his inexperience, Hanson has been compensated at or around league minimum to this point in his service. In 2009, the Braves purchased Hanson’s minor league contract.25 In 2010, his contract was renewed for one-year at $435,000.26 Again, in 2011, Hanson’s contract was renewed for $456,500.27 The Club was hopeful given Hanson’s successful run in 2011 that the upcoming season would prove equally productive, generously tendering Hanson a one-year $535,000 contract for 2012.28 Unfortunately, the season for Hanson was a bust and recent uncertainties about both his health and performance have led the Club to assess his 2013 value at $3.5 million.

26 Id.
27 Id.
28 Id.
VIII. Conclusion

The Braves are very appreciative of the contributions Hanson has made to the Club and are cautiously optimistic about his future with the organization. Hanson very well might be destined to be a great player. However, as of late, there have been signs giving rise to the Braves’ doubts. Certainly, there is the fact that he is carrying the highest ERA of his career (4.29). Additionally, there was the shoulder injury of last year, the back injury this year, and a fastball of declining velocity likely attributable to both. Hanson’s lingering shoulder injury raises many questions as to his capacity to perform at his highest level.

It is not unheard of for many players fall short of expectations. Hanson is a valuable player of the Braves organization, and the Braves are hopeful about Hanson’s future. However, the Club is understandably hesitant to tender Hanson a $3.13 million contract after 2 consecutive injury-plagued seasons with 3 trips to the DL and a pitiable platform year. Furthermore, Hanson did not perform as well as Hughes, Scherzer, and Saunders did in their platform seasons. During his platform season, Hanson put up fewer Wins (13) than Hughes (18), Scherzer (15), and Saunders (16) did. Hanson also had a higher WHIP (1.454) than Hughes (1.248), Scherzer (1.349), and Saunders (1.430) in his platform season, as well as a higher ERA (4.48) than Hughes (4.19) and Scherzer (4.43).

Unlike last year, Hanson is coming off of a rough season and 2013 will be crucial year for Hanson’s career, as his health and velocity will be closely observed. Because of the Club’s apprehensions towards Hanson and given the evidence presented, the Braves respectively ask that this Panel determine the Club’s generous submission of $3.5 million to be more than fair compensation for the retention of Hanson’s services in 2013.