I. Prior Performance

Hanson is a great prospect that was drafted by the Atlanta Braves in 2005.\(^1\) He began his minor league career in 2006 playing for the Danville Braves of the Appalachian League, where he was considered the fourth best prospect.\(^2\) Living up to the accolade he ended the season with 13 games pitched an earned run average (“ERA”) of 2.09 with a walk plus hit per innings pitched (“WHIP”) of 0.99.\(^3\) Throughout the course of his minor league career Hanson remained a top prospect, rated the best pitching prospect in the South Atlantic League in 2007, rated best pitching prospect in the Carolina League in 2008 and best pitching prospect in the International League in 2009.\(^4\)

The Atlanta Braves called up Hanson to the major league in June 2009.\(^5\) His debut game live up the hype pitching 6 innings, striking out 5, giving up 6 earned runs, 3 home runs.\(^6\) During his 2009 season Hanson had 22 consecutive shutout innings.\(^7\) With this performance, he became the first National League rookie pitcher to win consecutive starts against the Yankees and the Red Sox.\(^8\) Hanson was awarded June's NL Rookie of the Month.\(^9\) Of the 21 games pitched through out his entire 2009 season, Hanson has an ERA of 2.89 and WHIP of 1.183.\(^10\) His

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\(^2\) Tommy Hanson Statistics and History, Baseball-Reference, http://www.baseball-reference.com/minors/player.cgi?id=hanson001tho
\(^3\) Id.
\(^6\) Id.
\(^8\) Id.
\(^10\) Id.
phenomenal debut season nearly earned him the National League Rookie of the year award.\textsuperscript{11} Hanson came in third place for the award.\textsuperscript{12}

In 2010 Hanson pitched in significantly higher number of games while still maintaining impressive statistic.\textsuperscript{13} Pitching career high 34 games over the course of the season, Hanson had a 3.33 ERA, and 1.17 WHIP. \textsuperscript{14} Hanson only gave up 182 hits while striking out 173 batters and walked 56.\textsuperscript{15} Hanson also has a good 2011 season \textsuperscript{16} Hanson pitched 22 games accumulating an ERA of 3.60 and a WHIP of 1.169. In that season Hanson attained a career high of 14 strikeouts in a game, an accomplishment that tied for the most strikeouts recorded by a pitcher at Minute Maid Park.\textsuperscript{17} Hanson’s 2011 season made placed him firmly among the league’s top performers.\textsuperscript{18} Hanson led the league in opponents' batting average .190, second in WHIP 1.016), was fourth in ERA 2.44 and third in strike out per inning 9.5.\textsuperscript{19}

Hanson 2012 season was plagues with a very apparent decrease in his performance compared to the rest of his career.\textsuperscript{20} Pitching 31 games Hanson had an ERA of 4.48 and a WHIP of 1.454.\textsuperscript{21} These statistics are most certainly uncharacteristic of Hanson and was frankly his worst season yet.\textsuperscript{22} This performance can be explained by what can only be seen as unfortunate circumstances, Hanson was involved in a car accident in February and suffered a slight

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textsuperscript{11} \textit{See id.}
  \item \textsuperscript{12} \textit{Id.}
  \item \textsuperscript{13} \textit{See id.}
  \item \textsuperscript{14} \textit{Id.}
  \item \textsuperscript{15} \textit{Id.}
  \item \textsuperscript{16} \textit{See id.}
  \item \textsuperscript{17} Hanson strikes out 14 keeps braves winning, \textit{AJC}, http://www.ajc.com/news/sports/baseball/hanson-strikes-out-14-braves-keep-winning/nQwL7/
  \item \textsuperscript{18} \textit{See Tommy Hanson Statistics and History, Baseball-Reference}, http://www.baseball-reference.com/players/h/hansoto01.shtml
  \item \textsuperscript{19} \textit{Id.}
  \item \textsuperscript{20} \textit{See id.}
  \item \textsuperscript{21} \textit{Id.}
  \item \textsuperscript{22} \textit{See id.}
\end{itemize}
concussion. Later in the season Hanson also suffered a slight back strain, which most certainly caused some discomfort throughout the season. Hanson 2012 season was simply a fluke caused by some minor uncontrollable setbacks. The statistics show is Hanson is a great pitcher and well worth his ask. In the aggregate he has high strike out per inning average, low base on ball per inning average, and an even lower home run per inning average and these are the kind of numbers you want to see from a pitcher.

There is certainly cause for some scrutiny on Hanson’s health and how it will affect his future performance. However, Hanson has not suffered any career ending injuries, simply the pains and bruises that come from a high level of performance over time. With some much needed rest and relaxation during this off-season, Hanson is sure to be back and pitching at full throttle.

II. Comparative Salaries

Mr. Hanson’s proposed salary of $4.3 million fairly and accurately reflects his anticipated production in the 2013 season, and it is comparable to other pitchers that have been eligible for arbitration. To establish Mr. Hanson’s value to the club it is most useful to compare him with John Lannan and David Price.

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23 Tommy Hanson Ok following car accident, Fox Sports, http://www.foxsportssouth.com/02/21/12/Hanson-OK-following-car-accident/msn_landing.html?blockID=670212&amp;feedID=3639
24 Braves put Hanson on DL with lower back strain, AJC, http://www.google.com/search?q=tommy+hanson+back+strain&amp;ie=UTF-8&amp;oe=UTF-8
25 See id.
27 Id.
When comparing Mr. Hanson to Mr. Lannan it must first be noted that Mr. Hanson only has 3.12 years of service following his 2012 season, whereas Mr. Lannan had 4.011 years of service after his 2011 season, after which he was awarded a $5 million contract in arbitration. 

While Mr. Hanson’s ERA was higher than Mr. Lannan’s, his career ERA is .4 lower and he notched 3 more wins with 10 less innings pitched and 2 less games. Mr. Hanson is also 2 years younger than Mr. Lannan with presumably less wear on his arm, having pitched approximately 150 less innings throughout his career. From this comparison it is clear that a $4.3 million contract for Mr. Hanson is more than fair for his anticipated 2013 production.
When comparing Mr. Hanson to David Price, he accumulated one more win and three less losses, while pitching 50 less games than Mr. Price. His ERA was higher than Mr. Price however when looking over their careers, their ERAs become much closer. Mr. Hanson is also one year younger than Mr. Price and has pitched significantly less innings, which again leads to the conclusion that he has significantly less wear on his arm.

In comparing Mr. Hanson to Mr. Price and Mr. Lannan it becomes clear that his requested salary of $4.3 million is more than fair when considering his past season and anticipated future production.

III. Intangibles

Hanson has only had one significant injury in his major league career. He was placed on the Disabled List in the 2012 season for a strained back.30 Prior to that, he was an excellent player breaking multiple records. Hanson even finished third in Rookie of the Year during his first season with the Braves.31

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30 Tommy Hanson, ESPN, http://espn.go.com/mlb/player/_/id/30191/tommy-hanson
31 Tommy Hanson, Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tommy_Hanson