Royals trade All-Star 3B Maikel Garcia to Mariners in blockbuster deal

JAYLON THOMPSON
The Kansas City Star

The Kansas City Royals on Wednesday took a big swing toward resolving their long-standing need for pitching help this offseason.

And it involved trading one of their brightest stars: The Royals traded All-Star third baseman Maikel Garcia, right-handed relief pitcher James McArthur and minor-league pitcher LP Langevin to the Seattle Mariners, per ESPN baseball insider Jeff Passan.

The club later confirmed the deal.

In return, the Royals received three major-league pitchers. The haul includes right-handed starter Bryce Miller, left-handed reliever Jose Ferrer and right-handed starter Logan Evans.

"This clearly addressed some of our pitching needs," Royals general manager J.J. Picollo said. "And that was something we really thought — for us to compete in the 2027 season — we had to get some pitching somehow and some way. And ultimately, this is the move that we thought made the most sense for us. We got a quality now starter, quality starter down the road and a quality reliever."

The Royals needed to improve their pitching depth in the wake of multiple injuries last season. The club lost starters Cole Ragans, Stephen Kolek and Luinder Avila to season-ending injuries, derailing the rotation.

The KC front office considered different avenues. One was a potential "uncomfortable trade" that could provide the club with more pitching insurance. On Wednesday, Garcia became the trade piece that was moved.

"This one became pretty apparent that Seattle was a good trade partner for us," Picollo said. "At the end of the General Manager meetings, I had the opportunity to speak to (Seattle front office executives) Jerry Dipoto and Justin Hollander. We had agreed there is something, you know, worth talking about here. Over the last couple of days, we were able to work towards an agreement."

Garcia, 26, dealt with multiple injuries last season. He hit .268 with three home runs and 38 RBIs but never regained his All-Star form. He had a small muscle-strain in his left hand and he was bothered by multiple hamstring strains.

Nick Loftin played third base in Garcia's absence. The utilityman did a serviceable job and was a Gold Glove finalist at the position.

"I think what Nick did this year for us, especially defensively, left us feeling good that we could still continue to perform at a high level defensively."

With their clear need for pitching help, the Royals decided to ship Garcia to Seattle. The trade comes after he signed a five-year contract extension last winter.

The Royals will now re-configure their starting rotation to include the 28-year-old Miller. He will join Michael Wacha, Seth Lugo and Noah Cameron in the regular order. Miller had a 4.17 ERA in 22 starts last season.

"If you look at the controllability of the players we got in return, this is not only a short term, but it's a long-term move as well," Picollo said. "You got Bryce Miller for three years. You got Logan Evans for five and you got (Jose) Ferrar for three. So there is a lot of years of control that we gained back. So yes, this makes our team better today, but it also bodes well for our future."

Phoenix rally eliminates Panthers

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Sean Frye I Tribune photo
Neosho County Panthers goalkeeper Shinji Okura distributes the ball during the district championship game against Northeast at Chanute High School.

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — Despite leading with less than 10 minutes to play, the Neosho County Panthers' stay at the NJCAA Division II Men's Soccer National Championships ended with a 3-2 loss to Phoenix on Tuesday in pool play.

Neosho County opened the national tournament's pool play with a 3-2 win over Schoolcraft on Monday.

"We underperformed and really struggled to find our rhythm in that game," Neosho County head coach Sam Hall said. "We had to let the nerves settle in. We made decisions we don't normally make. Schoolcraft caused us some issues. But once we adapted, we had more success. We looked a lot better in the second half."

Ivan Rocha scored twice for the Panthers in Monday's win.

"He was unbelievable. He's a great talent with such an IQ," Hall said. "When he got his moments, he took them. He demonstrated why he's such an asset."

On Tuesday, Neosho County faced defending national champion Phoenix, with the winner advancing to the semi-finals.

"The guys played really well and we were set up in a way that really caused Phoenix problems," Hall said. "We had a different dynamic than what they're used to. But they're a good team and football surprises you. They had good fortune with the equalizer then capitalized after that."

Danny Carroll scored both goals for the Panthers on a day where Neosho County's attack was limited to six shots.

"Danny's been unorthodox all year and he can score from anywhere with any part of his body," Hall said. "He's been so effective in those situations."

In the 83rd minute, Phoenix equalized to put the score at 2-2.

In the 88th minute, Phoenix took its first lead of the match with a goal from Connor Kane.

"It was relentless pressure they were putting on," Hall said. "We were trying to absorb it as much as possible. It is what it is. Our guys had put in a lot of minutes at high intensity. Sometimes the legs don't cooperate with you. Phoenix had the ability to rotate more players and that was the difference."

The result left Neosho County, which was playing in its third straight national tournament, with a 15-1-6 overall record for the fall campaign.

The Panthers were unbeaten prior to the loss to Phoenix and earned KJCCC, region and district titles.

"It was amazing," Hall said. "I'd have taken this at the start of the year, without a doubt. This continues to set the standard going forward. Everything we've done this year was incredible. I'm very, very happy."

Looking ahead

Hall, who was in his first year as the men's head coach this season, told the Tribune he expects to return next year.

Among the biggest names graduating for Neosho County include Carroll, Keane Hazeldine, Rhys Brunton, Riccardo Giovanelli and Yuki Suzuki.

"I'm all in for preparation for next year," Hall said. "I don't want to sit around. I want to get back on the horse and get the ball rolling for next year. It's not time to relax. I want to be happy with the effort I put in now next August."

Dry shooting dooms Panthers against North Ark

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A dry shooting night for the Neosho County Panthers triggered a 93-80 loss to the North Arkansas Pioneers on Tuesday night.

Neosho County shot 38.8% from the field. But the Panthers' struggles compounded from behind the arc, where they shot 6-of-27 (22.2%).

"The guys executed the gameplan we had in place," Neosho County head coach Gage Delimont said. "We wanted less than 12 turnovers and had 11. We wanted to hold them under their average of 15 offensive rebounds and they had 13. We just weren't ready for their big man's presence and we didn't have a good shooting night. Sometimes the ball just doesn't go in."

Jayce Cooper led the Panthers with 27 points on 10-of-26 shooting to go along with six rebounds, two assists and two steals.

"He battled," Delimont said. "We always have him guard the best guard on the other team and he still plays hard. He crashes the boards and gets to the rim."

Sixty-five of Neosho County's 80 points came from three players — Cooper (27), Zachery Lewis (22) and Tobi Ogunyode (16). Nobody else on the Panthers' roster had more than three points.

"Our shooters weren't hitting," Delimont said. "We have guys that are 40% from three that couldn't hit shots. Tonight just wasn't their night."

Gus Krout led North Arkansas with 19 points on 6-of-12 shooting while also posting a double-double with 11 boards.

Chris Hill and Javarious Russell each had 17 points as well for the Pioneers.

"All our guys are able to catch-and-shoot," Delimont said. "It just wasn't our night. It happens. When you live and die by the three, you have to die by it sometimes."

The loss leaves Neosho County with a 4-4 overall record on the season.

"We had a tough start to our schedule and still opened with an upset," Delimont said. "Going into this game, North Arkansas battled against some of the best teams in our conference. We're getting set up for success in conference play."

Up next

The Panthers travel to Trenton, Missouri for two games this weekend. Neosho County faces North Central Missouri on Friday then Western Iowa Tech on Saturday.



Sean Frye I Tribune photo
Jayce Cooper of the Neosho County Panthers flies up for a layup during Tuesday's game against North Arkansas at Neosho County Community College.

Rashee Rice's bankruptcy filings expose reality of his NFL take-home pay

TORIANO PORTER
The Kansas City Star

Despite being paid about $1.2 million from the Kansas City Chiefs this year, wide receiver Rashee Rice's take-home pay plummeted after a flurry of taxes, fines and legal debts, The Star reported Tuesday. Newly released pay stubs from his Nov. 5 Chapter 7 bankruptcy filing in Texas lay bare the heavy financial toll of mounting legal fees, accumulating debt, and restitution owed to the victims of a 2024 car crash he caused in Dallas.

As part of the Nov. 4 filing in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in the Northern District of Texas, Rice included a copy of his weekly pay stub, which was filed a day later, according to court records. A deeper dive into those documents showed after taxes and other deductions were taken out of his weekly pay checks, Rice took home $466,535 during a roughly 10-month period beginning in January.

Those figures, revealed in court documents, include regular earnings, performance pay, workout bonuses, deferred compensation, and training camp wages.

Rice signed a four-year deal worth about $6.5 million in 2023 — receiving a $1.7 million signing bonus and a little over $3.5 million in guaranteed salary, according to Spotrac. He could earn up to $1.6 million this season in base pay and incentives. Unless the Chiefs re-sign the mercurial wide receiver to an extension in the coming weeks and months, he will become a free agent in March.

A closer look at Rice's court filings provides an itemized breakdown of his earnings and expenses, detailing what led the Chiefs' former second-round draft pick out of Southern Methodist University to seek Chapter 7 bankruptcy protection. According to the petition, Rice makes roughly $59,500 per month before deductions. The Star previously reported that Rice's monthly income after taxes and other deductions was roughly between $29,000 to $32,000, the filing showed, underscoring the financial strain the second-year pro is currently under.

Rice owes nearly $3.4 million in total debt with just over $13,000 in available cash, according to the filing in federal court.

The petition outlines approximately $3.4 million in total debts — legal expenses and settlements from the 2024 wreck in Dallas and assault allegations made by a former girlfriend drove those expenses. Rice is also disputing a combined $700,000 owed in crash-related lawsuits and another $200,000 from the former girlfriend.

Against those liabilities, Rice reported $677,054 in total personal assets — including $421,825 in deferred compensation — and a combined $13,640 spread across three checking accounts.

A public hearing is scheduled for Dec. 11 in Texas, court records indicate. Multiple messages sent to Rice's Texas-based bankruptcy attorney, David Shuster, seeking comment were not returned as of Tuesday.

Inside Rice's salary, taxes, garnishments

According to pay stubs Rice submitted in court filings, the Chiefs paid the talented but troubled wide receiver more than $1.2 million between Jan. 1 and Oct. 30. In the NFL, some players like Rice are paid weekly over an 18-week period starting with the regular season, according to the NFL's salary schedule. Others are paid bi-weekly for 36 weeks.