



## METS GM? THERE'S ONLY ONE CHOICE

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What are the Mets doing here?

Send in the clowns?

Wait, the Wilpons are already here, and so is Mr. Met.

A general manager?

What's that? Listen, the definition of what a general manager is and what that person does varies from one organization to the next, especially when one considers the Mets organization.

So, we're down to Dougie, Chaim, and Brodie.

Listen, not for nothing, but if you're the Mets why not hire all three? It's not like the Mets don't have a history with 3-man front offices. Bring in three new guys and combine them with the three guys that ran the show this past season (John, Omar, JP) and the Mets will have the most high-octane six-man front office in all of baseball.

Hey, not for nothing, but can someone please tell me why the Mets never asked the Yankees for an opportunity to speak with Damon Oppenheimer who currently serves that organization

as their director of scouting and has long been thought of as a future general manager himself? Then again, he works for the Yankees, and why would the Mets seek to emulate that operation or pick the brain of one of their central front office figures?

I guess Mickey Callaway is coming back next season, eh? Even though Jeff Wilpon didn't say so during his season-closing press conference, one gets the idea that a prerequisite for whoever gets the GM job will be to agree that Callaway returns in 2019...otherwise, thanks for applying, but no thanks.

Doug Melvin.

Doug Melvin stepped away from wanting to run a major league franchise in almost the same way that Mike Francesa walked away from WFAN radio. Much like Francesa, it appears that Melvin missed the action and now wants back into the game.

Reading between the lines it looks as though Melvin will be the choice as the next Mets GM, although, it also appears as though he'll work under a set of parameters like previous Mets GM's have worked under, that is, in a subservient role to the real Mets general managers, Fred and Jeff Wilpon.

Maybe this is a good thing, actually, Melvin being the choice. At this juncture of his life and career, Doug Melvin is obviously agreeable to working under the Mets dysfunctional chain of command. I mean, what does he have to lose? Melvin has already spent a lifetime in the game, he's been at the helm of two franchises previously, he's now 66-years old, and if he can snag a deal with the Mets, at the very least, he's going to pad his retirement fund before he evacuates the game for good at some time in the near future.

At some time in the near future.

The future.

The Mets future.

The Mets have a future?

Well, perhaps, but why hire a 66-year old man to direct baseball operations when the shelf life of such a general manager will in all probability be pretty short?

So, best case scenario, Doug Melvin is hired by the Mets and serves a total of 4-years as their GM, if he makes it 4-years even. Then what? Back to the drawing board in 2022 and another search all over again? This would be so Metsian, right?

The oldest GM in baseball currently is the Red Sox Dave Dombrowski who is now 62. But Dombrowski is now into his 4th season as Boston's GM and was hired when he was 58. The

next oldest is the Tigers Al Avila who is 60-years old, but Avila has been on the job since 2015 and was hired when he was 57.

The majority of baseball GM's are far younger than both Dombrowski and Avila, and if you're the Mets, why would you not hire a baseball executive who is not only well younger than someone like Doug Melvin, but also, why would you not hire someone younger than Melvin who is more in tune with today's baseball trends, and more important, someone who can be on the job for the next 10-years at minimum and who will introduce much needed continuity within the Mets front office?

With all due respect to Doug Melvin, he's the wrong guy at the wrong time for a Mets franchise in desperate need of outside the box thinking and someone who can preside over a front office many years into the future, not someone who will in all likelihood be a short-term plug-in which will necessitate yet another GM search in only a few short years.

There are a number of issues over the years that have prevented the Mets from being a franchise able to sustain long-term success over a collective number of years, but maybe the biggest problem the Mets have had is that their ownership group lacks the ability to have the kind of vision that allows other franchises to succeed where the Mets otherwise all too often fail.

Of the three finalists under consideration, in my way of thinking, there is only one obvious choice, and his name is Chaim Bloom, the Tampa Bay VP of baseball operations.

Not only does Bloom possess an age (35) that allows him to grow with the franchise and be around for a considerable length of time, but in addition, Bloom is at the forefront of today's current baseball trends, and most important, Bloom has been a central cog in one of baseball most efficient front offices for years, a front office that has been as resourceful as any other in the game.

Over the last 12 years, the Rays have routinely been able to draft and develop talent at a rate as high as any other franchise in the game. Their minor league system has consistently been one of the best in the game for years. Bloom has demonstrated an ability to not only scout and draft high-ceiling talent for Tampa Bay, but he's also found value in players at the major league level, players undervalued or discarded by other organizations that have found success in Tampa Bay.

Bloom represents a bold and invigorating step into the future for the Mets and his selection would send a clear signal perhaps, that the Mets are serious about doing things differently, that the Wilpons might finally be willing to take their hands off the wheel of the franchise, that the micro-managing ways they've exhibited in the past are finally coming to an end, and that they are placing their trust in a dynamic individual who will be given the autonomy that any GM needs in order to truly place their imprint on a franchise.

Brodie Van Wagenen? Come on, the fact that this agent has actually made it to the final round should be a sign that this franchise is in many ways still too stupid to comprehend what is and what is not in their better interests.

Then again, maybe it should be Doug Melvin. Well, why not? Look it, I'll say this: If the Mets plan is to continue to operate under the same old ways, then Chaim Bloom should be dismissed as a candidate immediately — because the hiring of someone like Bloom under the conditions that have come to define the defective nature of the Mets baseball operations department would be a huge waste of time, both for Bloom and the Mets.

So, if it remains the status quo out at The Ballpark In Queens, allow me to be the first one to welcome Doug Melvin to town as the latest general manager of the New York Mets.

For the time being anyway.