



For Immediate Release

2018 Players Choice Awards Player of the Year Finalists ***Mookie Betts, J.D. Martinez and Christian Yelich are top vote recipients***

NEW YORK, Nov. 6 – Mookie Betts, J.D. Martinez and Christian Yelich were selected by their peers in both leagues as finalists for overall Player of the Year in 2018 Players Choice Awards balloting.

The winner of Player of the Year will receive a \$50,000 grant from the Major League Baseball Players Trust to direct to a charity of his choice, while the second and third-place finishers receive a \$10,000 grant.

The winner of the Marvin Miller Man of the Year Award, whose finalists will be announced next week, will also receive a \$50,000 grant from the Players Trust. Winners of the eight league-wide awards receive grants of \$20,000 each. Runners-up in all categories that are not Player of the Year or Marvin Miller Man of the Year receive \$10,000 and third-place finishers \$5,000.

All told, the 2018 Players Choice Award winners will designate charities to receive grants of nearly \$500,000 from the Players Trust this year. Since 1992, the Players Trust has recognized the outstanding on- and off-field performances of Players Choice Awards winners by contributing more than \$4 million to charities around the world.

Through their collective charity, players pool resources to support efforts that provide hope, sustainability and lasting change around the world. Players direct grants to the wide range of causes they support – from disaster relief to health and human services to growing baseball in the United States and abroad.

Players Choice Awards voting among all players was conducted in mid-September by the accounting firm KPMG. Winners will be announced on the evening of Nov. 27.

2018 Player of the Year Finalists

Mookie Betts, a dynamic 5-foot-9 right-fielder from Nashville, Tenn., was catalyst offensively and defensively for the 2018 World Series champions, batting a league-leading .346 with 32 homers, 129 runs, 80 RBIs and a 1.078 OPS. A three-time All-Star, the 26-year-old Betts also stole 30 bases in 36 attempts in his fifth season with the Red Sox and his 10.4 fWAR was the best in baseball.

After signing a five-year deal with the Red Sox as a free agent last offseason, **J.D. Martinez** promptly helped lead his new club to a World Series title in 2018. He compiled 5.9 fWAR while slashing .330/.402/.629 with 43 home runs and leading the majors with 130 RBIs and 358 total bases. Splitting time between corner outfield positions and designated hitter, the 31-year-old South Florida native was also named to the second All-Star Game of his eight-year career.

Christian Yelich joined the Brewers in a trade this winter and powered the club to the NL Central title with a second-half surge. The 26-year-old outfielder from Southern California made a strong run for the Triple Crown and ended up as the Brewers' first batting champion (.326) while hitting 36 homers and driving in 110 runs. He led the NL with a .598 slugging percentage and a 1.000 OPS. In 2018, Yelich twice hit for the cycle and was selected for his first All-Star Game.

Players Choice Awards finalists for Comeback Player, Outstanding Rookie, Outstanding Pitcher and Outstanding Player in each league have already been announced. The finalists for Marvin Miller Man of the Year will be announced Nov. 13.

About the Major League Baseball Players Trust

Through the Players Trust, Major Leaguers contribute their time, money and celebrity to call attention to important causes. Each year the Players Trust distributes more than \$1.5 million in annual grants and programs. For additional information, please visit www.PlayersTrust.org, [@MLBPlayersTrust](https://twitter.com/MLBPlayersTrust).

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