

Why The Moose Is At Second By Mark Belling, WISN-AM

The Brewers' decision to move newly re-signed Mike Moustakas from third to second base makes total sense once you figure out the team's long-range plan.

The Brewers' best prospect, Keston Hiura, plays second base and can't be moved because he has a bad throwing arm. Hiura is close to being ready and could be on the major league roster by mid-year. Moustakas signed only a one-year deal and is not in the Brewers' long range plans. Travis Shaw, however, is. Keeping Shaw at his best position, third base, is the right decision because Shaw is in the team's long-range plans and it makes little sense to play him at second when his future is at third.

Moustakas won't be a great second baseman but he is an excellent baseball player and will be adequate there. He appears to be a temporary fix while the Brewers wait for Hiura. If Hiura is a bust, they still have Moustakas. Hernan Perez can play anywhere and he and Troy Spangenberg can be inserted late in the game at second for defense. The Stearns-Counsell operation values flexibility so this all makes sense.

Final key point: under Counsell, the Brewers have revolutionized position-less baseball. Everybody is stationed in a different spot for each hitter according to where they tend to place the ball. So calling somebody a second baseman doesn't mean what it used to. The Brewers simply have seven defensive players and put them wherever they are needed depending on the hitter and game situation.

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