With Akil Baddoo’s breakout many Twins fans have been left wondering, “Why did we give away a player of his caliber for nothing? This is just like that time we let go of David Ortiz or traded Ramos for Capps or…” While I will agree, this one stings. Though it is not as incompetent of a situation as some fair-weather fans assume.

First off, while Minnesota Twins have had success in the Rule V draft, namely Ryan Pressley, and I guess some guy named Johann Santana. The Rule V draft is not the best way to acquire talent. Obviously, these players were deemed not good enough to warrant a 40 man spot by their original teams. Most of the time the players selected are pitchers since those are easier to stash in a bullpen, but here is every successful offensive player of the past decade of Rule V.

Ji-Man Choi, Obdubel Herrera, Anthony Santander, Victor Reyes, Justin Bour, Mark Canha, Marwin Gonzalez.

Now don’t get me wrong, those names are somewhat solid, but that’s 10 years of picks with only 4-5 successes. Not great odds for the players. Even in the past decade, a majority of time rule V picks just serve as an extended look at players from other squads.

In terms of players, there is a relatively safe bet that players selected are not going to amount to much, especially hitters. Leaving Baddoo unprotected was probably also a right move. With him being unable to play in 2019 due to Tommy John surgery and then the whole 2020 season being cancelled left him without meaningful experience or scouting to truly bring him above others on the depth chart. Remember that while he was 2 years younger than the competition, he had reached A ball in 2018 as a 19 year-old, and only 29 games at High A in Fort Myers before the injury occurred.

Even on the Twins depth chart, Akil Baddoo had a dim future cracking the Twins outfield. Over the next three years, you still have both Kepler signed through 2025 and Buxton through 2023, both would have been patrolling Target Field when Akil would have been called up. Couple that with spots needed for the likes of Alex Kirihoff and Trevor Larnarch residing in AAA, that pushes Akil Baddoo’s future in the outfield even more out of reach. That’s not to mention the gluts in the Twins top 30 prospects with names like Brent Rooker, Matt Wallner, Gilberto Celestino, Alerick Soularie, and Gabriel Maciel all potentially vying for a spot, you can see why the Twins were open to leaving Baddoo picked.

Again, we are only 60 atbats into Baddoo’s career, It only takes a large slump to where the Twins may have the opportunity to take him back. Will the Tigers do it? Probably not with the way he killed the ball early this year and throughout spring training, but you never know.

Only time will tell truly how disastrous leaving him unprotected will be, but I have a feeling that the prospects coming up are probably going to out perform Baddoo in the future.