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**BLE Offseason Review to Date**

by [shawndgoldman](#) on Dec 31, 2009 4:51 PM EST in [Chicago Cubs News](#) on [Bleed Cubbie Blue](#)

Take yourself back to the beginning of the offseason, and imagine this was the headline:

**Cubs Trade Milton Bradley, Aaron Miles, and Jake Fox for Carlos Silva, Marlon Byrd, and Prospects**

Now that doesn't sound too bad, does it? This is the extent of the Cubs major moves thus far in the offseason, and it's a pretty good set of maneuvers by the Cubs' GM, Jim Hendry. The Cubs came into the offseason with the following priorities: 1.) acquire a CF, 2.) move Milton Bradley, 3.) keep in mind payroll is capped at ~\$140M. Jim Hendry did an admirable job accomplishing 1. and 2., and did so without significantly increasing team payroll in 2010 or 2011. Marlon Byrd and **Mike Cameron** were the best CF options on the free agent market, and once the **Yankees** swooped in and scooped up **Curtis Granderson** there weren't any eminently available CF options on the trade market, either. Once the **Red Sox** signed Cameron, Byrd was the only reasonable option left, and Hendry signed him to a 3-year, \$15M contract. Byrd will make \$11M in 2010, \$15.5M in 2011, and \$16.5M in 2012. When trading Bradley, the Cubs "acquired" Carlos Silva, and in the process to **OMG People Care!** in the next two years, assuming they buy out Silva's contract next year (Silva is owed \$25M over the next two years, Bradley was owed \$21M and the Cubs will get \$9M from the **Mariners**). The Cubs freed an additional \$1.7M by trading Miles (and Jake Fox) for prospects, meaning the net change in salaries for those 2 moves is an additional \$1.8M over the next two seasons and an additional \$6.5M in 2012. That's pretty good. Where do the Cubs project to finish the season now? Follow me below the fold to find out...

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