



For Immediate Release

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White Sox to sign McCann

CHICAGO, IL -- The Chicago White Sox will sign catcher Brian McCann to a five year deal worth \$80 million, as they continue to build a strong foundation in order to return to being a perennial contender in the American League Central. The team will announce the decision after the conclusion of the World Series.

McCann, 29, has been widely regarded as one of the best free agent catchers. The seven-time All-Star will serve as a middle of the order bat in a White Sox lineup that needed a top-tier hitter after coming off of a 99-loss season.

In his career numbers, McCann is batting .277/.350/.473 and he has hit 20 or more home runs in each of the last six seasons. With these numbers, he looks to fill in for Tyler Flowers and Josh Phegley who hit for .195 and .206 batting averages respectively during the 2013 campaign.

While he missed the beginning of the 2013 season due to prior shoulder injuries, McCann returned in May with strong play that quieted concerns. His play last season made it apparent that his decision to have surgery on his shoulder in 2012 will allow him to contribute for years to come.

The Rangers and Yankees were reportedly also in the mix for the free agent catcher who has spent his entire career with the Atlanta Braves. It is believed that these teams were the front-runners because a shift to the American League allows McCann to spend time as a designated hitter after catching over 8,800 regular season innings in his career.

The signing will cause the Sox to lose their second round draft pick in the form of compensation, as McCann received and declined a qualifying offer from the Braves. With McCann in the mix, Flowers and Phegley will compete this spring for a spot on the 2014 roster.

Brian McCann resides with his wife, Ashley, in Suwanee, Georgia with their son and newborn daughter. He and his wife are spokespeople for the Rally foundation, which serves to raise awareness and funds for childhood cancer research.

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