

Sweeney seeks redemption in Boston

Written by Jim Ecker

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Ryan Sweeney will be getting a second chance with the Boston Red Sox.

Sweeney, 27, agreed Friday to accept a minor league deal with the Red Sox and will join them in spring training, but there are no guarantees he'll be put on the 25-man roster when the season begins.

Sweeney joined Boston last year with high hopes, but he suffered a series of injuries and batted just .260 in 63 games. His season ended prematurely when he punched a door and fractured a bone on his left hand.

"Don't worry redsox nation no punching doors this year," Sweeney remarked on his Twitter account Friday.

Sweeney's contract reportedly has an "opt-out" clause. If he is not assigned to the 25-man roster at the end of spring training, he can leave the Red Sox and try to sign with another team.

Sweeney was not listed on Boston's 40-man expanded roster as of Saturday morning. The Red Sox list six outfielders with Jacoby Ellsbury, Jonny Gomes, Alex Hassan, Ryan Kalish, Daniel Nava and Shane Victorino.

Kalish reportedly will have shoulder surgery next week and is expected to miss spring training.

Sweeney is a left-handed hitter who can play all three outfield positions. He spent 10 days in California earlier this month with Hall of Famer Rod Carew, working on his swing and trying to develop more power.

Sweeney declined offers from other teams. He said he's excited about rejoining the Red Sox, where John Farrell has replaced Bobby Valentine as the manager.

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Sweeney, from Cedar Rapids, graduated from Xavier High School and was a second-round by the Chicago White Sox. He has played for the White Sox, Oakland A's and Red Sox during his career.