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BEAMING RAYS OF HOPE

Like ballplayers every year for more than a century, Carlos Correa has certain goals in mind for his 2022 season. But they're probably not the same targets that Babe Ruth or Willie Mays ever took aim at. "I want an OPS+ above 130. My weighted runs created, I want to keep it above 140. I've always had a goal of walking 100 times in a season, because if you do that, the home runs will come, right? But it's [really] hard," Correa said of his analytically driven goals. "And I want to win. I want to get back to the World Series."

That last one is a lot easier to calculate, but could induce plenty of eye-rolling in the Twin Cities — if anyone else said it. Minnesota hasn't played a World Series game since Jack Morris' Game 7

masterpiece more than 30 years ago. The Twins, last in the American League Central in 2021, haven't even won a postseason game in 17 years.

But Correa has been to the championship round three times in the past five seasons, and is arguably the biggest reason his Astros got there. He's one of the smartest and most dangerous hitters in the game, perhaps the most talented fielder currently patrolling a major league infield, and a dynamic personality that his new teammates already gravitate toward.

"He's brought a lot of chemistry here. He likes to win, and he brings that kind of energy," said Jorge Polanco, who after a 33-homer last season

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