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Where would the Cubs be without star infielder Javier Baez? The front office considered trading him to the New York Mets or maybe even the Tampa Bay Rays. This season, Baez has proven himself nearly untouchable. Cubs President of Baseball Operations Theo Epstein has a history of trading young hitters for quality pitching, but he made a good choice in keeping Baez.

Baez again proved his worth while starting shortstop Addison Russell was injured. Baez started 41 of 42 games and hit .282 with 8 home runs and 27 RBI.

Baez is a natural shortstop, but he has accepted his position as a second basemen. The cubs have an all-star defense with Russell at short. "When I play short every day, obviously, I'm going to be ready for it and making all the adjustments to be there," Baez said. "I do my best to help the team. Addie's a big part of the team."

Joe Maddon did not name Baez as a full time player at the start of this season even after his performance in last year's playoffs. "If you had done that with him two years ago, he would have buried himself," Maddon said. Maddon made the point that if Baez burst onto the spotlight too early, he would have made many more mistakes.

<http://www.csnchicago.com/chicago-cubs/untouchable-javier-baez-showed-why-cubs-built-around-him-during-takeover-shortstop-addison-russell>