Two Yankees eras draw to a close

BY JOSH NORRIS

The first was the close of shortstop Derek Jeter's career, which featured a monster-long-regular- season run, a walk-off single in his final game, and an emotional final postgame news conference in which he thanked fans for their support. The second era ended with the retirement of first baseman Mark Teixeira, who had spent nine of his 11 seasons in New York and had backed up more minor league options for the last five years.

And while Teixeira's future will have a more straightforward path, his move in replacing Jeter is more up in the air.

Jeter's retirement was a slam dunk. The 30 former Yankees' fans -- the ones who have been waiting for Jeter's retirement -- have been clear on their stance. It's time for Jeter to hang up his cleats. The Yankees have no choice but to retire Jeter's No. 2.

Teixeira, on the other hand, is a tougher choice. Yes, he has the numbers. He's the team's all-time leader in a number of offensive categories, the most important of which are RBIs (912). He's second in doubles (299), behind only Jeter, and he's third in home runs (229), behind only Alex Rodriguez (441) and Jeter (256).

But the Yankees have yet to make a decision on whether to retire his No. 25. The cornerstone of the offense for a full decade, Teixeira was never the best hitting or defensive first baseman. He was a solid player who found himself in a lot of No. 2 spots in the lineup and was the team's best hitter for a number of years in the middle of the order.

The Yankees could theoretically cut back on his playing time as the season goes on. With the team's need for innings at DH, he could have been moved back to DH a few times a year. But the Yankees have yet to announce if they will retire Teixeira's number.

Jeter and Teixeira's departures are the final chapters to a long era in New York. The Yankees and their fans have been waiting for these moments for years.

Luis Severino

RHP

Born: Apr. 10, 1995

B-T: R-R

W-T.: 6-3, 195

SCOUTING REPORT: Severino, a pitchers and catchers prospect who was involved in the Martin Prado trade, has the size and stuff to be a very interesting two-way player. He was the minor league pitcher of the year in the Yankees' system in 2014, leading all minor league pitchers with 19 wins.

Severino's build, Control

Severino's build is a bonafide plus attribute, as is his ability to stay down and paint the lower half of the strike zone. Severino's stuff is as impressive as his ability to throw strikes. He delivers an even faster fastball than formerly thought possible at 97-98 mph with excellent command and arm slot. His curveball is a plus pitch, sitting 78-80 mph with good movement. Severino's changeup has great deception at 80-82 mph.

Scouting report: Seve...